

Businessmen begin Cairo meeting

CAIRO (Petra) — Egyptian Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Dr. Yusef Mustafa said here Sunday that the growth of economic cooperation between Egypt and Jordan was bound to serve the people of both countries and the Arab Nation at large. Addressing a meeting of the Jordanian and Egyptian Businessmen's Council, Dr. Mustafa said that businessmen of both countries were capable of promoting this bilateral cooperation in all fields, Jordan and Egypt geographically very close and their cooperation in maritime transport, electricity, commerce, agriculture and other fields and the establishment of joint companies within the framework of the joint holding company of \$50 million capital should enable the two countries to make further steps towards prosperity, the minister said. The Jordanian businessmen to the meeting were led by Jordan's Ambassador to Egypt Hussein Hammami, who made a speech in reply voicing the Jordanian government's full support for the council's work and programme. Mr. Hammami referred to commercial and economic cooperation between the two countries and stressed the need for promoting joint tourist programmes.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political newspaper
جورديان تايمز
الصحف الفلسطينية الأردنية
Jordanian Times Foundation

France raises W. Bank aid

AMMAN (J.T.) — France has decided to raise its contribution to Jordan's economic and social development programme for the occupied Arab territories from four million francs to 14 million francs annually. The French decision was delivered here Sunday to Dr. Ahmad Qatana, under-secretary of the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs, by Jean-Jacques Subrenat, deputy director of the technical cooperation department at the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Mr. Subrenat, who has been on a visit to Jordan, will leave for the occupied West Bank on Wednesday to have a close-hand study of sectors which the French government plans to support within the Jordanian programme, according to a spokesman for the French embassy in Amman. During the meeting with Dr. Qatana, the spokesman said, different aspects of the Jordanian projects were reviewed with particular attention given to health, education and agriculture. French Ambassador to Jordan Patrick LeClerc was present at the meeting.

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Regent receives Arab justice ministers

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday received at the Royal Court heads of the delegations taking part in the fifth session of the Arab Justice Ministers Council, currently being held in Amman. The participants expressed their heartfelt appreciation to both His Majesty King Hussein and the Crown Prince for patronising the event. The meeting was attended by Minister of Justice Riad Shakaa (See story on page 3).

Iraqi jets attack Iranian-charter tanker

BAHRAIN (AP) — Iraqi warplanes fired a French-made Exocet missile into a Cypriot-flag tanker Sunday, crippling it as it carried one million barrels of Iranian oil, marine salvage executives said. The engine room of the 140,000-tonne tanker was destroyed but there was no major fire and the 28-member South Korean crew escaped without injuries, said the executives. With the crew was an Iranian officer escorting the tanker after it lifted the crude oil from Kharg.

Bonn to approve Saudi sub sales

BONN (AP) — The Bonn government is prepared to approve the export of eight West German-built submarines to Saudi Arabia, the Welt Am Sonntag newspaper reported Sunday. The newspaper said West German Defence Minister Manfred Wörner sent a letter to his Saudi Arabian counterpart nearly a year ago, informing him that the Bonn government would not block the export of the submarines.

League envoy meets Sharaa on 'camps war'

DAMASCUS (R) — An Arab League envoy on Sunday discussed the situation at Lebanon's besieged refugee camps with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa, the Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) reported. It said Al Akhdar Al Ibrahim, assistant secretary-general of the league, lauded Syria's role in trying to end the conflict between Palestinians in the camps and Shi'ite Amal militiamen holding positions outside. Conditions have eased in the Beirut camps of Shatila and Bourj Al Barajneh, where the Syrian army presence has upheld a truce and ensured safety for relief convoys.

Nakase's party seen heading for setback

TOKYO (R) — Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakase seemed headed for a setback on Sunday in the two most important contests of local elections. Incumbent governors backed by the opposition Socialist Party were certain of victory against candidates supported by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), according to computer projections by the publicly-owned Japanese Broadcasting Corporation NHK and by Kyodo news service. Political analysts say Sunday's elections — involving 13 governorships and 44 prefectural assemblies among other contests — could affect the political future of the prime minister.

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Amman meeting launches pioneering Arab Council for Child Development

Regent and Prince Talal urge Arab states to mobilise resources and work for securing children's future

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, opened on Sunday the first meeting of the Arab Council for Child Development with a call on Arab countries to enable the estimated 85 million children of the Arab World fend off dangers that threaten them and help secure a bright future for them.

"Our children are our hope for the 21st century to defend Arab land and Arab future in a world that does not respect the weak and the ignorant but only the learned, the wise and the strong," Prince Hassan said in an address to the delegates gathered at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman. Everything possible should be done to develop Arab children, and the Arab Council for Child Development can serve as a stimulant for Arab states to use their material and spiritual resources for this endeavour, Prince Hassan said.

Prince Hassan noted that the Arab summit meeting held in

Amman seven years ago addressed itself to the economic development in the Arab World and, accordingly, Arab experts worked out plans for a development strategy through the employment of Arab resources and wealth. But, said the Regent, it is regrettable that today the Arab governments have not implemented their resolutions nor have they honoured their promises and pledges for development.

Prince Hassan said no matter how great the resources of a country it cannot work alone to achieve the aspired goals and therefore the local community and the public should lend a helping hand, especially in the

development process. Prince Hassan referred to the Health Ministry's 1985 annual statistical report which showed that 60 out of 1,000 born in the Kingdom in that year died because of childhood diseases at a time when the annual population growth stood at 3.8 per cent. He said actual mortality rate is much higher because of the lack of precise death figures.

A 1986 report by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) indicated that most of the children who died from major infant killer diseases during that year were in 36 Third World nations, including Jordan, and under five years of age and that no less than 65 children in every 1,000 died of these diseases, the Crown Prince added.

He said many children also die at birth or due to respiratory illnesses or diarrhoea, kidney diseases, poisoning and other diseases. In addition, many children in the Arab World are continually

threatened physically by hunger, wars and poverty like those children living in Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon and in Iraq which is exposed to aggression and Sudan which suffers from drought and famine, Prince Hassan noted. Our children continue to pay the price of wrong decisions by the elders or the designs and plans of foreign powers, and for this reason every possible effort should be made to fend off these dangers or at least reduce their effects and contain them, Prince Hassan said.

Moreover, he said the "Arab identity of many of our children is threatened because they are being raised at the hands of foreign domestic servants and continue to be exposed to danger coming from foreign television programmes such as those telecast by stations in southern Europe and received in Tunis and Arab countries of North Africa. "The negative effect of television on our children," Prince



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and Prince Talal Ibn Abdul Aziz co-chair the opening meeting of the Arab Council for Child Development on Sunday (Petra photo)

Arafat and Habash meet in Algiers

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat and one of his major political opponents, George Habash, head of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), met on Sunday for the first time since 1983 when a rebellion in Fatah ranks split the PLO. The meeting between Mr. Arafat and Mr. Habash, both of whom are here along with other Palestinian leaders to attend a reconciliation meeting and preparatory talks for the April 20 session of the Palestine National Council (PNC), took place at the palace of Algerian President Chadli Benjedid.

However, the meeting was limited to a handshake and an exchange of nods, according to PLO officials who attended the meeting. Other informed sources quoted by news agencies said Mr. Arafat and Mr. Habash had agreed to meet again later Sunday or early Monday prior to launching the Palestinian reconciliation talks and PNC preparatory meetings. However, a senior PLO official was quoted as saying by a UAE newspaper that Mr. Arafat and Mr. Habash held talks until the early hours of Sunday morning.

Mr. Arafat arrived here from Tunis on Saturday after securing a mandate to negotiate with other PLO factions a new formula for Jordanian-Palestinian relations and Palestinian-Egyptian contacts from the Revolutionary Council of Fatah.

The new "framework for relations between Jordan and the PLO includes the abrogation of the (Feb. 11, 1985) Jordan-PLO accord," according to informed sources.

The abrogation of the accord and an end to contacts with the Egyptian government are two major demands put forward by Arafat opponents as the price for reconciliation.

Khalil Al Wazir, deputy military commander of the PLO and a senior member of Fatah, was quoted as saying by the UAE

newspaper Al Itihad on Sunday that the PLO had already abrogated the Jordan-PLO accord, "the main obstacle hindering (Palestinian) national dialogue and the convening of the PNC."

Mr. Wazir told Al Itihad Mr. Arafat and Mr. Habash met late Saturday and the meeting lasted until the early hours of Sunday. He said he attended the meeting along with Salah Khalaf, Mr. Arafat's right-hand man in Fatah, and Abu Ali Mustafa and Tayseer Qabaa from the PFLP.

Al Itihad also quoted Mr. Wazir as saying that PLO-Egyptian relations will be referred to the PNC. Syrian President Hafez Al Assad was reported by Al Itihad as failing in a last minute attempt to abort the reconciliation process between Mr. Arafat and the hardline PLO factions.

Mr. Assad was reported to have invited all leaders of the Syrian-based Palestinian factions, currently in Algiers, to meet him in Damascus "immediately."

Regent holds talks with Osama Al Baz

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, held talks on Sunday with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's political adviser Osama Al Baz on the latest developments in the Arab and international arenas, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

The agency said the Regent and Dr. Baz also reviewed means to unify Arab ranks in the face of external challenges. Dr. Baz also conveyed to the Regent greetings from President Mubarak, to His Majesty King Hussein and the Crown Prince, Petra said.

Dr. Baz flew to Amman earlier in the day in the same plane that carried Mrs. Susan Mubarak, the Egyptian first lady, who is attending meetings of the newly set-up Arab Council for Child Development.

The Regent's discussions with Dr. Baz were also expected to cover efforts towards convening an international conference on the Middle East under United Nations auspices and the outcome of King Hussein's recent visits to Morocco, the Netherlands, Belgium and Britain.

In London on Sunday, the King met with the Soviet ambassador to Britain, Leonid Zamiatin. Petra said the ambassador conveyed to the King greetings from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and briefed him on Moscow's stands towards disarmament and the call for an international conference on the Middle East as well as the Soviet interest in seeking an early end to the Iran-Iraq war. Prime Minister Zaid Rifal and Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem attended the King's meeting with Mr. Zamiatin.

Crown Prince Hassan on Sunday sent a cable to President Mubarak congratulating him on the success of his ruling National Democratic Party (NDP) in the general elections held last Monday. Prince Hassan wished President Mubarak further success in the leadership of the NDP.



Her Majesty Queen Noor receives the wife of the Egyptian president, Mrs. Susan Mubarak, upon her arrival in Amman on Sunday to take part in the constituent assembly of the Arab Council for Child Development. Also at hand to welcome the Egyptian first lady were Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh who is the acting minister of labour and social development, and other officials.

In explaining the objectives of the council, Prince Talal said the council, a non-governmental body, was urgently needed to attend to the needs of children, who comprise 45 per cent of the Arab population.

Prince Talal echoed Prince Hassan's call for mobilising Arab resources to help the children secure a bright future and said "today's children are the Arab states of tomorrow and any shortcomings in raising them properly will have deep negative effects on the future of the Arab World."

Referring to the situation in the occupied Arab territories, Prince Talal said children under Israeli rule "continue to face an ugly and gloomy future in view of Israel's arbitrary measures and threats to their Arab identity."

In the first session that followed the opening session, the delegates elected Prince Talal and Prince Hassan as co-chairmen of the meeting.

Those attending Sunday's

meeting included Her Majesty Queen Noor, Suzanne Mubarak, wife of Egypt's president, Sarah Al Mahdi, wife of Sudan's prime minister, and Nabila Kaddoumi, wife of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) political chief Fatah Kaddoumi.

Arab health, welfare and youth ministers, economists, writers, poets and actors, including Syrian comedian Duraid Lahham and Lebanese actress Nidal Ashkar, were also present.

In its working sessions on Sunday, the meeting decided to site the council in Cairo. The assembly also unanimously ratified the basic charter for the council. The final session will be held Monday.

Queen Noor hosted a dinner in honour of Mrs. Mubarak at Al Nadwa Palace on Sunday. The dinner was attended by Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, Mrs. Mubarak, Egypt's Minister of Insurance and Social Affairs Amal Othman and wives of senior Jordanian officials.

Settlers rampage through W. Bank after bomb attack

OCCUPIED WEST BANK (Agencies) — Hundreds of armed Jewish settlers set fire to Arab-owned orange groves and rampaged through a nearby Palestinian town Sunday after an Israeli woman was killed and five other Israelis seriously burned by a firebomb.

The bomb attack came just before the week-long Jewish holiday of Passover and touched off other West Bank violence in which six Palestinians were reported injured. Tensions between settlers and Arabs appeared to be at the highest level since 1980. Hundreds of settlers broke windows and set fire to cars and orchards overnight in the town of Kalkiya, after an unknown assailant hurled a petrol bomb at a car, setting it ablaze and burning its six passengers.

An Israeli woman died in the attack. Settlers said only the death penalty would deter resistance attacks in the area where some 60,000 Jews have settled among 800,000 Palestinians.

Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin told reporters he ordered the army to uproot three rows of trees along the road where the attack took place to prevent guerrillas from using the groves as cover.

Settlers set fire to citrus groves and then surged into Kalkiya early Sunday, damaging 20 houses and 16 cars and yelling slogans calling for the eviction of Arabs, the Palestine Press Service said.

Other armed settlers entered the West Bank towns of Ramallah and Hebron where they damaged cars, the army and the press service said. Israeli soldiers in Ramallah injured four Palestinians who resisted arrest, army spokesman said.

The Palestine Press Service complained that the presence of the armed settlers in Arab villages fuelled West Bank tension. "This is the first time for several years that the settlers have been openly involved in this kind of activity," the agency said. "Indications are such activity would have been impossible (without) some kind of official approval."

A reporter driving in the West Bank saw armed Israeli civilians standing guard in front of a number of settlements in the West Bank.

The new West Bank violence, which dominated radio news Sunday, appeared to still an internal feud between Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud bloc and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres' Labour Party over the merits of an international conference on Mideast peace.

Most of the cabinet meeting was spent discussing "security" measures for the West Bank, said a spokesman.

After the firebombing, settlers gathered at the site and set fire to Arab-owned citrus trees. Then, hundreds of settlers drove and walked into Kalkiya, a town of 10,000. They threw stones at the home of Mayor Abdul Rahman Abu Seina, broke windows and set fire to homes and shops before soldiers forced them out.

There was a tense silence in Kalkiya. Israeli paratroopers in khaki uniforms and red berets carried Uzi submachine guns as they patrolled the deserted streets. Arabs peered out from open doorways and windows.

Shultz and Shevardnadze begin three days of discussions today

Combined agency dispatches

"If the Americans are going to try to draw us into simply swapping accusations on who spies more on who, then the talks won't get very far," one Soviet insider commented.

Both President Ronald Reagan and Mr. Shultz have said the United States intended to make the question of Soviet spying on American diplomatic missions in the Soviet Union a main agenda item for the Moscow discussions.

In Helsinki Mr. Shultz met Sunday with a dozen U.S. arms control advisers.

Limited by President Reagan in other nuclear areas, Mr. Shultz hopes to clear a major obstacle to a treaty to rid Europe of medium-range missiles in the Moscow talks.

The barrier is the presence in East Germany, Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union of 130

shorter-range rockets that the United States and its North Atlantic Treaty Organisation allies want the right to match.

In two speeches, Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev has offered to negotiate a solution while the two sides complete an agreement to eliminate their other medium-range missiles from Europe.

U.S. officials said they would continue to insist any INF accord include the principle of constraints on shorter-range missiles and the U.S. right to build up to Soviet levels.

But they left the impression there was some room for negotiation on the subject.

"The (NATO) alliance will have to answer how we match if we choose to match" the Soviet Union, one U.S. official said, suggesting a buildup would not be automatic.

Lebanese, under stress, fight to escape 12 years of civil war

BEIRUT (R) — The Lebanese, torn by a civil war that started 12 years ago this week, are struggling to blot out of their minds what to many has become a madness of incomprehensible complexity.

Secular and political militia battles, Israeli invasions, Syrian intervention, Palestinian commandos and U.S. action have killed at least 125,000 people since April 13, 1975.

A million people, about a third of the population, have been displaced from their homes. Anything to help forget is being tried — violence, insults, gambling, tranquilizers, television, sex, drugs, videos, sport, eating, night-clubs, family life. Newspapers and politics are increasingly ignored.

Lebanese even use weapons to relieve tension, from trigger-happy militiamen to whole communities, who celebrate festivals with deafening volleys of gunfire.

"Why not? Often, we express our happiness, sorrow and sometimes love through machineguns," said a militiaman. Mounir Toufex, a sociologist, noted the superficiality and dangers of these reactions.

"Scores of fashion shows, which hundreds of thousands of people attend or watch on TV, reflect a deep desire to live a 'normal' life and ignore the present war," he said.

"It covers a serious tragic fact... The Lebanese are not facing their problem, but are trying to hush themselves. Such provisional solutions are bound to be ineffective, and frustration will lead to

more explosions," he added. Despite soaring prices, people still flock on weekends to more than 300 well-equipped nightclubs, mostly in the Falangist enclave north east of Beirut.

"The more the (Lebanese) pound is devalued, the more people come to dance," said one night-club manager. "Perhaps it's because they want to forget their ordeal."

William, a 60-year-old musician, noted a certain despair. "They dance in an hysterical way that makes you feel as though you are sitting in a mental hospital," he said.

Sex is a common refuge for anguished Lebanese during fighting when bouts of shelling who confine them to blacked-out apartment block basements for hours or days.

Mini baby-booms result and, according to venerologist Dr. Ibrahim Malek, sexual diseases multiply too.

"Until two years ago, there were more brothels in Lebanon than schools," said Father George Bashara, a Catholic social advisor.

"But because of the influence of Muslim fundamentalists in west Beirut, and the opposition of the church in east Beirut, the number has dropped sharply on both sides," he said.

Nevertheless a dark-haired, 35-

year-old prostitute working in Christian east Beirut related how she cashed in on her clients' need to escape tension.

"My colleagues are more attractive than me, but when I changed my name from 'Susie' to 'relax,' I started getting the biggest share of the profits," she said.

Use of drugs, readily available from the hashish fields and heroin factories of the eastern Bekaa Valley, is now widespread among Lebanese youth, especially militiamen.

"It's the only source of happiness in this country," said one 20-year-old who wanted his name kept secret.

Older people tend to drink much more than before the war and psychiatrist Dr. Edward Azouri said that in response to a "drastic increase in anxiety" at least one member in every Lebanese family uses tranquilizers.

Flashing lights and green velvet tables beckon people to 129 gambling clubs, bingo halls, casinos and amusement arcades in east and west Beirut alone.

"The excitement makes them forget the war," said casino owner Adel Karam.

Each season about 400,000 tickets are sold for 20 shows, mostly in Falangist areas, according to theatre owners. Many are facile farces with little artistry, catering to an audience that often only wants to laugh.

While richer areas around Beirut attract attention with more glamorous ideas, stress of actual

or threatened armed conflict is faced by almost all parts of Lebanon.

For the poor, hours watching Lebanon's four television channels blot out anxiety — electricity cuts permitting. Some 45 FM music stations cater to a market that does not want to hear news between songs.

Other signs of stress include excessive smoking, hair-raising driving and a shift from soft, insinuating conversation to loud talk and a tendency to shout and argue.

"At night, I sit on our balcony and invent the heaviest insults and curses a man can think of against whoever is responsible for all this — I have to do it to relax," said Naji Mansour, 45.

Some people pray more, join meditation groups or get married — just to keep busy.

Tension from fighting can bring families closer together, according to Souda, a housewife who said her children gathered in the kitchen to make cakes and biscuits for distraction.

"I eat three times as much as usual when there is shelling," said Souda's daughter Lina, a 23-year-old medical student. More than 600 restaurants still thrive in Lebanon.

Among the growing number of people who cannot even afford basic necessities, police say theft is on the rise.

"War has taken away any meaning in life," said Akram, 22, in prison for stealing. "I will do anything I can to be happy before I get killed by a shell or a bullet."

Israel blocks Palestinian exports to Europe

LONDON — To the annoyance of EC officials in Brussels, Israel is undermining newly agreed European trade concessions to Palestinian farmers, Mid-East Markets has disclosed.

Last October European Community (EC) foreign ministers approved a series of tariff reductions on agricultural produce from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and these were scheduled to go into effect in January.

Israel, however, is insisting that marketing must be conducted by its two state fruit and vegetable marketing agencies, Agrexco and the Citrus Marketing Board.

The Israelis claim that Palestinian produce would pose unacceptable competition. However, Mid-East Markets noted that "the actual amount of produce involved will not add up to much... Unofficially it is suggested (by EC officials) that it might largely involve citrus produce, to the tune of perhaps 20-25,000 tonnes." This compares with Israel's orange exports to the EC of 239,256 tonnes in 1985.

The real issue at stake, however, is the economic identity of the occupied territories. The Israeli government wants the West Bank and Gaza Strip to function purely as adjuncts to the Israeli economy. The Palestinians — and the EC — want the two regions to develop autonomously, as the prelude to an Israeli withdrawal.

The Israeli position on the marketing question is irritating the EC, said Mid-East Markets, because it "runs counter to the spirit of the concessions, which were designed to foster the independent economic development of the occupied territories."

At their October meeting, the EC foreign ministers also approved \$3.3 million in development aid for the West Bank and Gaza Strip this year, and details have now emerged of how it is proposed that the money will be spent.

The biggest allocation, \$1.21 million, is provisionally destined for technical and vocational training, and higher education. \$330,000 is earmarked to upgrade the Agricultural Mechanisation and Electrical Engineering Departments at the Hebron Polytechnic. \$660,000 is allocated for upgrading to polytechnic level the vocational training course provided in the Gaza Strip by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA).

\$440,000 has been earmarked for small industrial and handicraft projects sponsored by the charities and non-governmental organisations, while \$133,834 is destined for general technical assistance — Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding Bulletin.

Most West European countries sceptical over U.S. raid on Libya

By Brian Mooney
Reuters

LONDON — One year after American jets thundered into the skies above Britain on their way to bomb Libya, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government remains convinced along with President Reagan that the raid was effective and justified.

Most others in Western Europe are less sure and some even question whether the Americans, by striking Libya instead of elsewhere in the Middle East, actually hit the right target.

But a British official with intelligence contacts said: "We believe that this action has made the Libyans think again."

A Foreign Office spokesman said: "There was irrefutable evidence at the time of Libyan responsibility for terrorism. We have had no reason to change our minds since."

Britain, exasperated by what it says have been years of overt Libyan backing for Irish Republican Army (IRA) guerrillas fighting British rule in Northern Ireland, led the way in seeking to isolate Col. Muammar Qadhafi after shots fired from the Libyan embassy in London killed a policewoman in April 1984.

The British severed relations with Tripoli and two years later lined up behind the United States as its only European ally to provide military facilities — air bases — to help launch the April 15 raids on Tripoli and Benghazi.

Col. Qadhafi and his deputy Abdul Salam Jalloud have since publicly restated their support for the IRA, and British security forces say Libya last year contributed more than \$1 million (\$1.6 million) to the outlawed group.

But Britain, nonetheless, believes Col. Qadhafi has been cowed.

In line with other Europeans who have continued to be the target of his rhetoric, the British say there has been no new evidence of Libyan "involvement in terrorism" on the scale of that which preceded the U.S. bombing raid.

When confronted with this earlier evidence, all 12 members of the European Community (EC) agreed to impose sanctions on Libya. These included reductions in the personnel in Libyan embassies, restrictions on movements of Libyans and a ban on arms sales.

The measures are still in force but there are clear signs that many West European countries remain far from convinced about the wisdom and effectiveness of the U.S. attack.

A British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Television documentary screened in April showed Israeli, Italian, West German and Austrian officials rejecting evidence that Libya was implicated in the operations which finally provoked the American raid — shootings of civilians at Rome and Vienna airports in December 1985 and the bombing of U.S. servicemen at a discotheque in Berlin.

No one interviewed went as far as U.S. United Nations Ambassador Gen. Vernon Walters who said: "I think the bombing has been superb. If you look at the Libyan response to terrorism (since then) it is almost non-existent. I think it has been extremely effective."

The doubters, some of whom argue that Col. Qadhafi all along may have been stronger on rhetoric than action, include the Dutch, the Spanish, the Italians, the West Germans and the French.

The British Labour opposition party was also damning.

"It doesn't appear that the American raid achieved very much," Labour's foreign affairs spokesman George Robertson said.

"First of all, the evidence since then seems to show that the terrorism the Libyans were accused of was down to other parties, probably the Syrians," Mr. Robertson said.

"It was also counter-productive because it was seen as being directed against a soft target rather than at the real seat of terrorism," Mr. Robertson said.

As a trial in London last October, Nezar Hindawi was jailed for 45 years for plotting to blow up an Israeli El Al airliner. He had claimed links with Syrian intelligence.

West Germany expelled four Syrian diplomats last year after a West Berlin trial linked the Syrian embassy in East Berlin to an attack on an Arab-German club.

The two Palestinians convicted in the trial testified that they had sought backing from Col. Qadhafi but received only a little money and some Libyan propaganda and had taken their cause on to Damascus.

A year after the raid from which it distanced itself, West Germany does not believe the action achieved anything other than good publicity at home for Mr. Reagan for appearing tough on terrorism.

"We don't see that the U.S. has achieved its aims," an official source said.

France, which like Spain and Italy refused overflight rights for the U.S. raid, feels that its softer

approach to Col. Qadhafi has paid off and that the war it is helping its African ally Chad fight against Libya will in the end be far more effective.

Europe's Mediterranean states concluded that the U.S. action was bad policy towards the Arab World as a whole and a dangerous departure from the principle of negotiation.

Spain was one of Europe's most critical opponents of the U.S. raid, saying the fight against terrorism had to respect international law, but it later fell into line with the EC's limited diplomatic sanctions against Libya.

The Libyan consul-general in Madrid was expelled for allegedly organising a meeting between Col. Qadhafi and an extreme right-wing army colonel and the charge d'affaires left Spain after his name was linked to an anti-Zionist guerrilla group.

Spanish sensitivity was ruffled this year by Col. Qadhafi's call for the independence of the Canary Islands.

Italy strongly criticised the U.S. raid and officials in Rome said the Italian view of the action remained unchanged.

Libya struck at Italy in retaliation for the U.S. attack, firing a missile at the Italian island of Lampedusa, and its former colony planned to rock bottom.

An Italian official involved in counter-terrorism, Antonio Badini, told the BBC programme that Italy had no evidence to support affirmations that Libya was behind the shooting at Rome airport in which 16 were killed.

Italy expelled a total of 31 Libyans in the aftermath of the raid and abortive missile attack but has since released three members of a Libyan hit-squad in exchange for four Italians held in Libya.

Austria never directly implicated Libya in the attack at Vienna airport in which four people died. But at the time Austrian officials expressed outrage at a statement by the Libyan News Agency JANA which hailed the attack as an heroic act.

The Libyan embassy later denied any involvement and the Austrian Interior Ministry said there was no evidence the guerrillas had been trained in Libya.

In Dublin, Ireland's new leader Charles Haughey moved swiftly after winning office in March to condemn Col. Qadhafi for saying he had stepped up aid to the IRA in retaliation for Britain's support for the U.S. raid.

Mr. Haughey, whose election victory was hailed by Col. Qadhafi, made clear that any friend of the IRA was no friend of his.

Reagan aides reportedly asked Iran to delay Tehran hostages' release

MIAMI (R) — A month before Ronald Reagan won the 1980 presidential election, two of his aides secretly met a man claiming to represent the Iranian government and offering to delay the release of 52 American hostages, the Miami Herald reported Sunday.

The newspaper quoted the aides, Richard Allen and Laurence Silberman, then senior foreign policy advisers to Mr. Reagan, as saying the objective of the offer was to ensure the defeat of then-President Jimmy Carter.

Mr. Allen and Mr. Silberman said in separate interviews that they considered the offer absurd and rejected it, telling the man

that he had to deal with Mr. Carter, according to the Herald.

The paper quoted the two aides as saying that former National Security Council aide Robert McFarlane, then a Senate aide and Reagan supporter arranged and attended the meeting at a Washington hotel. All three Americans told the Herald they could not recall the envoy's name.

Allen, who became Mr. Reagan's first national security adviser, said Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini kept the hostages until Mr. Reagan became president as a symbolic insult to Mr. Carter and not because of a deal with Reagan.

Mr. Silberman said in separate interviews that they considered the offer absurd and rejected it, telling the man

aides, according to the newspaper.

Former Iranian President Abolhasan Bani Sadr was quoted as saying by telephone from exile in France that he learned after the American hostages were freed that the purpose of the talks was to delay their release until after Mr. Reagan became president. Mr. McFarlane, Mr. Reagan's national security adviser from 1983 to 1985, issued a statement in which the newspaper quoted him as saying:

"An individual claiming to be Iranian approached me and was referred to the Reagan campaign staff. He was judged to be a fraud and dismissed."

and instigating war against the state, for which he was given the second life sentence. He was also fined \$6 million.

The judge upheld the treason and spying charge but commuted its sentence to ten years. He rejected conviction under the second charge.

U.S. poll shows spy case could hurt Israel

NEW YORK (AP) — Most American Jews say they think the Jonathan Pollard spy affair and Israel's role in the Iran arms scandal will increase anti-Semitism in the United States, according to a New York Times-CBS News Poll published Sunday.

"Pollard," a "naïve" intelligence analyst convicted of selling classified documents to Israel, was sentenced on March 4 to life imprisonment.

The survey found 54 per cent of the Jews questioned thought the Pollard case and Israeli involvement in the Iran arms sales would lead to an increase in the United States of anti-Semitism. A total of 34 per cent of the Jews said there would be no increase in anti-Semitism.

Parallel sampling of non-Jews found, however, that few were aware of Pollard; who is Jewish. Of the non-Jewish respondents, only 18 per cent knew Pollard spied for Israel. Among Jewish respondents, 62 per cent knew.

Sudan commutes life sentence on Numeiri aide

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP) — A Sudanese court has commuted to ten years, two consecutive life sentences against former Vice President Omar al Tayeh for his role in transporting thousands of Ethiopian Jews, called Falashas, through Sudan to Israel.

Judge Zakl Abdul Rahman of the appeals high court said Satur-

day that the political climate in April 1986, following the coup that overthrew President Jaafar Numeiri, led to the severity of the sentences on the accused.

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Greater Amman Council tackles wide range of issues in fourth ordinary meeting

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The fourth ordinary meeting of the Greater Amman Council (GAC) was held Saturday and discussed and later endorsed wide ranging issues pertaining to the body's administrative, financial and organisational functions.

During the meeting, the council announced its JD 33.9 million budget for 1987 with a JD 1.4 million deficit to be bridged by an increase in projected revenues and through borrowing. Seventy seven per cent of the budget will be shouldered by the nine areas included in the former Amman Municipality and the remainder will come from the other 14 municipalities and 11 villages which joined Amman Municipality under the GAC umbrella four months ago.

The budget was passed by the council members on Saturday. The GAC, set up on Jan. 1 to control unplanned urbanisation and to offer a comprehensive socio-economic development scheme for the capital and its suburbs, will undergo two transitional stages before the process is completed.

The first phase started with the formation of the 51-member council. Over the next four years the Amman Municipal Council and the member municipalities will be dissolved and the new areas will later be transformed into municipalities with citizens there electing their own councils. Then, a council for the Greater Amman area will be formed, including all the municipalities and heads of planning and services departments in the government.

When the new municipalities joined the GAC, their credit balances were frozen and spending on capital expenditures or compensation for land allocations was done from the 1986 Greater Amman Municipality budget. This step meant freezing JD 2.5 million in credit balances which have become savings to be included in the new JD 33.9 million budget.

Current expenditure for 1987 are estimated at JD 15.5 million, out of which JD 10.2 million will be salaries for more than 6,000 employees of the GAC, and JD 3.6 million and JD 1.8 million will be spent on other expenditures and transferable accounts. "In a communiqué introducing the 1987 budget, Amman Mayor

Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh voiced satisfaction that the volume of spending on operational costs had been kept below 50 per cent of the total revenues.

Prior to the council's endorsement of the budget, Mr. Rawabdeh said: "We are trying all possible ways to minimise our operational costs and to optimise spending on capital investments."

A suggestion from GAC member Anwar Al Hadid for adopting the method of commercial accounting instead of cash accounting was not accepted since this system is not applied in government-run institutions and departments and it would not complement the council's dealings with other official sectors.

Mahmoud Said called for opening more than the announced 144 new job vacancies at the GAC during 1987, noting that this would help reduce unemployment among Jordanians, presently put at 12 per cent.

A JD 1,989,000 tender for asphaltting a total of two million square metres in various parts of the GAC area, and another JD 432,000 tender for base coats — both won by the same contractor — led to a heated debate between Mr. Rawabdeh and council member Ali Abu El Ragheh. Both tenders were approved by the council's tenders committee.

Mr. Abu El Ragheh, who is also president of the Jordan Contractors Association (JCA), charged that such huge projects in economic and volume terms should be divided into smaller parts and awarded to more than one contractor.

According to the JCA system of contractors' classifications from grade one to five, grade one contractors specialised in asphalt coats are not allowed to exceed a ceiling of JD 1.5 million for carrying out activities in this field.

The JD 1.9 million contract is to be completed in 240 days and Mr. Abu El Ragheh said this means the contractor will be completing work worth JD 10,000 each day. Mr. Rawabdeh said that despite the fact that the contractor was exceeding the ceiling set by the JCA, the company had a good record of performance and wide experience and submitted the cheapest bid. Mr. Abu El Ragheh said he was protesting against the tendering procedure and not against the contracting company.

The JCA president, also a member of the council's committee for development, said such a project should have been submitted to the committee for further consideration. He suggested that a consultative firm be chosen to supervise the works of both tenders. His suggestion was not accepted as Mr. Rawabdeh pointed out that the GAC had its own supervisory staff.

The contracting company, the Orient Company for Quarries and General Contracting, has won several GAC tenders.

Street numbering

Touching on another newly-launched scheme for street naming and numbering, Ra'ef Nijem, chairman of the co-ordinated committee, said that the names of the areas and mountains will not be changed under the new project. "In fact, we have adopted basic principles for this new addressing system, which will cover the whole GAC area, and it follows the linear method and includes the breakdown of the areas, streets, names and numbers," he said.

Right after the committee concludes its study of the project, all concerned parties including the police, the Statistics Department and the postal services department will be asked to submit their ideas regarding the project before its final implementation," he added.

World Bank loan

Another important issue tackled during the meeting was a communiqué prepared by Mr. Rawabdeh regarding a memorandum on an agreement reached between the council and the World Bank under which changes were made to a loan for GAC transport development schemes. The value of the World Bank loan was reduced to \$51 million from \$65 million.

The reduction in the loan's total value followed a week-long visit to Jordan by a World Bank delegation entrusted with reviewing the achievements of the Greater Amman Municipality.

Reasons for the reduction were cited as changes in services to be given by the municipalities after they joined the GAC, a change in the priorities regarding a number of capital expenditure projects and similarities in projects which were included in the previous plans and which are now part of the GAC comprehensive development plan up to the year 2005.

Other reasons were given as being the availability of extra funds in the GAC budget, the cancellation of some projects and savings on other projects.

Some of the projects, which will become part of the new plan, are intersections on the Third Circle, Jabal Al Naser and improvements to dangerous crossings and access roads.

Haj Hassan leaves to attend Arab social affairs council

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan left Amman on Sunday for Tunis to chair a meeting by the executive council of Arab Social Development Ministers, due to open in Tunis on Tuesday.

The minister said in a pre-departure statement that programmes on social development in Arab states and financing welfare and development schemes through an Arab labour and social fund would be discussed at the five-day meeting to be attended by ministers from seven

Arab countries.

The council will also discuss the establishment of the Arab Childhood and Development Council and the prospects of providing help to this council as well as establishing mental health centres in Arab countries, the minister said.

Mr. Haj Hassan said that Jordan submitted to the Arab labour and social fund requests for providing help to a Jordanian project for promoting traditional handicrafts. Mr. Haj Hassan is accompanied to the Tunis meeting by a two member delegation.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Dentistry conference to open Thursday

AMMAN (Petra) — The sixth Arab dentistry conference is due to open here on Thursday under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent. A total of 45 working papers are due to be discussed by nearly 450 dentists from Jordan, Arab and foreign countries taking part in the conference. Two seminars, which will be addressed by dentists from France and Egypt, will also be held during the two-day conference. An exhibition of medical equipment used in dentistry will also be organised.

Seventh ship transports cement to Egypt

AMMAN (Petra) — A ship loaded with 22,000 tonnes of Jordanian cement has left Aqaba port for Egypt. This is the seventh vessel to transport cement to Egypt since the signing of an agreement between Jordan and Egypt in May 1986. Under this agreement, Jordan will annually export one million tonnes of cement to Egypt. A total of 187,000 tonnes of cement have been exported to Egypt since the agreement was signed.

CDD chief meets with Egyptian minister

CAIRO (Petra) — Civil Defence Department (CDD) Director Lieutenant-General Khaled Al Tarawneh, currently on a visit to Egypt, Sunday held talks with Egyptian Interior Minister Zaki Bader on bilateral cooperation in civil defence, fire fighting and rescue operations. Lt.-Gen. Tarawneh said that Mr. Bader expressed his ministry's readiness to put all its capabilities and experience in civil defence at Jordan's services. The CDD director also visited the sea and river rescue unit of the Egyptian civil defence service and discussed the possibility of training of Jordanian divers in sea and river rescue operations.

Italian ambassador visits Salt

SALT (Petra) — Italian Ambassador in Amman Luigi Amaduzzi Sunday visited the Salt Development Corporation where he was briefed on its activities and programmes. Dr. Amaduzzi also visited the cultural centre in Salt which includes a vocational school to which the Italian government provided JD 600,000 worth of equipment and undertook to train the school's cadres.

Governor inspects taxi services

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin, accompanied by Amman Police Director Nassouh Muhieddin and other officials, Sunday made a field tour of a number of taxi offices. He also inspected the public service taxi parks in King Ghazi Street.

Supply Ministry prepares for Ramadan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Supply has taken measures and made arrangements to ensure strict control on the quality and prices of commodities and consumer goods during the holy month of Ramadan (fasting month) which is expected to start towards the end of this April. Ministry sources also announced that the quantities of imported fresh meat will be doubled during Ramadan to meet market needs and that the distribution of meat to hutchers will continue throughout the month.

Arab justice ministers endorse commercial arbitration accord

AMMAN (Petra) — A meeting of the Council of Arab Justice Ministers Sunday endorsed a pan-Arab agreement on commercial arbitration, to be henceforth known as the Amman Arab Agreement on Commercial Arbitration.

Mr. Majed Ghanma, spokesman for the conference, said that the agreement paved the way for establishing an Arab centre for commercial arbitration to settle trade disputes among Arab countries or between Arab and foreign nations.

The centre will provide protection for Arab rights and interests, Mr. Ghanma said. He said that such a measure would put an end to arbitration by foreign countries which, sometimes favour non-Arab interests.

The decision was taken at a meeting held under the chairmanship of Mr. Mohammad Miko, chairman of the Council of

Arab Justice Ministers. Mr. Miko said the new agreement would enable Arab merchants and traders to resort to Arab rather than foreign arbitration in trade disputes.

The ministers opened their four-day meeting Saturday under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent.

Several delegates addressed the morning session of the meetings and one of the speakers in the afternoon session was Mr. Mohammad Saleh Al Aiari, the Tunisian justice minister, who reviewed the outcome of previous council meetings and expressed

his hope that the ministers would come out with recommendations and decisions to help enact pan-Arab legislation. In his address Mr. Aiari paid tribute to the heroic stand of the Iraqi armed forces at people in the face of Iran's aggression and also the struggle of the Palestinian people against Israel's repressive measures.

Afterwards Mr. Miko reviewed 22 resolutions issued by the council in its earlier sessions and discussed the council's contacts with specialised centres around the world for preparing a set of judicial laws to serve the Arab World. This was followed by a general discussion of various legislations and draft resolutions.

Justice Minister Riad Al Shaka Saturday evening hosted a dinner at the Regency Hotel in honour of the Arab justice ministers.

Majali, Omani minister review economic ties

AMMAN (Petra) — Omani Minister of Industry and Trade Salem Al Ghazali conferred here Sunday with Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahab Al Majali in the presence of Minister of Industry and Trade Rajai Muasher.

The two sides discussed means of promoting bilateral cooperation in economic and trade affairs. The meeting was attended by Omani's Ambassador to Jordan Khamis Ibn Hamad Ibn Seif Al Bitashi.

Meeting with Khatib

Information Minister Mohammad Khatib later received the Omani minister and his delegation. They reviewed bilateral relations and cooperation in cultural and tourist affairs, and also training Omani employees at the Hotel Training Institute in Amman.

The two sides discussed the prospect of dispatching a Jordanian specialist in tourism to Oman to help establish a hotel training centre. The meeting was attended by the Omani ambassador.

Mr. Ghazali also conferred with Lieutenant-General Fathi Abu Taleh, the army chief of staff, in the presence of Dr. Muasher and Omani's ambassador to Jordan.

The Omani minister arrived in Amman on Saturday on a three-day visit to Jordan and to attend meetings of the joint Jordanian-Omani economic committee.

The focus of the joint committee meetings will be boosting trade and economic relations in implementation of agreements signed between the two sides last year.

S. Korean parliamentary team arrives in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — A South Korean parliamentary delegation arrived in Amman Sunday on a five-day visit to Jordan and talks with the speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament.

The six-member delegation is led by Mr. Jung-Chul Kwak, who is also member of the Korean-Jordanian Friendship Society. Mr. Kwak said in an arrival statement that the aim of his visit was to help promote parliamentary relations and coordination between Jordan and South Korea.

Noting with satisfaction the fruitful economic and trade relations between the two countries, Mr. Kwak said that the South Korean government and people look forward to even stronger mutual ties. The people of South Korea look with respect to His Majesty King Hussein's endeavours for achieving prosperity for his country, Mr. Kwak added.

He said that South Korea support King Hussein's call for convening an international conference to resolve the Middle East issue and Jordan's efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. South

Korea also looks forward to Jordan's participation in the Seoul Olympic games which offer a good chance for the participation of all world nations, he continued.

The Korean parliamentarians are in Jordan upon the invitation of Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Akef Al Fayez.

During their visit to Jordan Mr. Kwak and his delegation will meet with Mr. Ahmad Al Lawzi, speaker of the Upper House of Parliament and Mr. Fayez and Parliament members to discuss developments in the Middle East and Jordanian-South Korean parliamentary cooperation.

The delegation will also visit tourist and archaeological sites in the Kingdom.

Mr. Rizk Al Bataineh, chairman of the Lower House of Parliament's foreign relations committee, and other members of Parliament as well as South Korea's Ambassador to Jordan Dong Sooo Park greeted the delegation upon their arrival at the Queen Alia International Airport.

Jordan and Hungary agree to cooperate in water, sanitation

AMMAN (Petra) — The Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) and the Hungarian Water Authority Sunday initiated an agreement on bilateral cooperation in water affairs, sewerage and sanitation. Under the agreement, the two sides will cooperate in training programmes and in holding seminars on water affairs.

The agreement was signed by WAJ Director General Mohammad Saleh Al Keilani and the

Hungarian minister of state for water affairs.

The visiting minister, who is accompanied by a delegation of Hungarian officials, earlier held talks with WAJ officials on bilateral cooperation in water affairs. The delegation also toured a number of WAJ projects and the wastewater treatment plant at Khirbet Al Samra as well as visiting Aqaba and Jerash.



Fluid lines for the curve of a figure — painting by Mohammad Kaitouqa

Kaitouqa shows considerable promise with 1st solo exhibition

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — At the Spanish Cultural Centre is the first solo exhibition of Mohammad Kaitouqa. First, and hopefully not last, for although very varied and lacking in coherence it is a body of work that shows a great deal of potential.

A fine arts graduate from Leningrad and recently returned from a post-graduate course in Italy, Kaitouqa's work shows both his classical training and his struggle to find his own voice. For Kaitouqa, the large oils populated with solid nudes that writhe and silently scream must be the most important works. Well painted and composed in strong dark colours, these figures like Munch's "The Scream" unavoidably and intractably say "Look at the suffering, the pain." The terror-stricken eyes, the wide black holes of the mouths, the disturbing and frightening have a theatrical and tenacious intensity.

Townscapes

Side by side with these paintings are strange almost naive townscapes. Sometimes desolate-

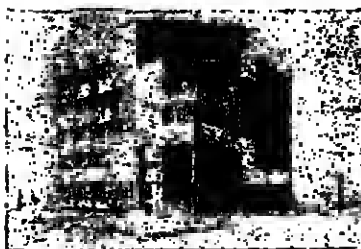
ly empty, at other times full to bursting with absurdly grinning faces the houses, like a paper patchwork, fill the canvas. Next to these are early Picasso-like nudes, some sharply observed portraits and two abstracted still lifes. All like the small, very spontaneous watercolours full of rushing blacks and fast fluid lines that effortlessly catch the curve of a figure, the essentials of a face are good and at times even excellent.

ART REVIEW

Taken individually, each type of painting has its own qualities and spirit. Taken as a whole the exhibition presents a problem — one common to many first solo shows — of what the artist is trying to say. What Kaitouqa needs to do, now that he can see work all displayed together — a very necessary step — is to decide which direction to take and develop it so that the next show will have the added strength of unity, of a theme, a statement that will make us sit up and take even more notice. The exhibition runs until April 18.

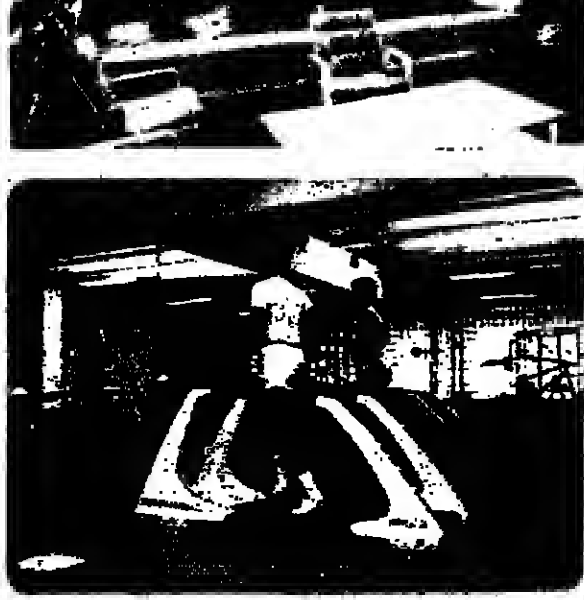
SHMISANY PHYSICAL FITNESS CENTER

The most modern and the largest centre of its kind in Jordan offers you a good opportunity to exercise and receive physical fitness training necessary for your body under the supervision of specialised coaches and instructors under specially prepared programmes to suit each individual.



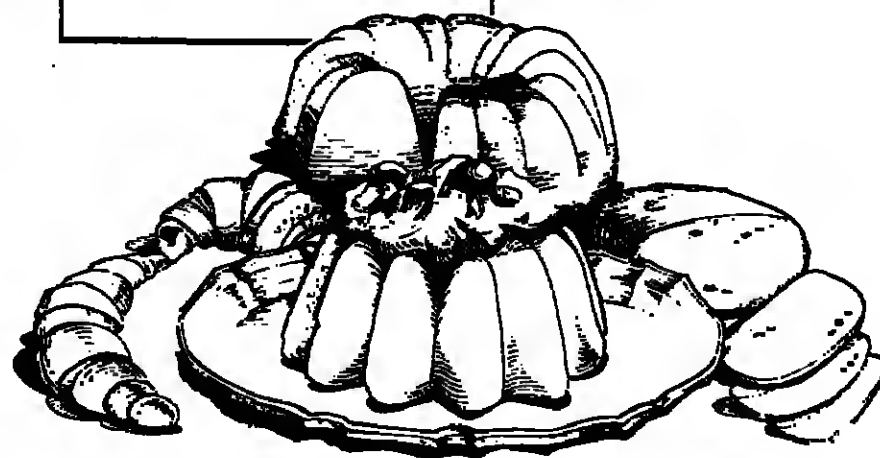
The centre has the following facilities:

- Sauna room
- Steam room
- Massage room
- Gymnasium (70 square metres with equipment — up-to-date physical exercises)
- Swimming pool, warm jacuzzi
- Rooms for changing with lockers for clothes
- Shower rooms
- Quiet resting halls
- Car park



For more information call Tel: 670283
and visit our centre at Shmeisani — The Tower
District, Kailani and Badran Building.

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Tackling childhood diseases

SUNDAY witnessed the birth of the Arab Council for Child Development. The birth was announced by Prince Talal bin Abdul Aziz who, together with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, sounded the alarm about the childhood situation in the Arab World, citing facts and figures that ought to cause some sleepless nights for Arab officials. Crown Prince Hassan told his audience that at least 45 million children in the Arab World are continually suffering from the effects of disease, hunger and poverty, and are silently withering away. Those children should be our hope for the future and should be cared for, enabling them to achieve success in areas where we have failed and regain property that we have lost.

The Crown Prince cited statistics indicating that nearly 7.5 million Arab children are born each year, and that 65 in every 1,000 of them die due to childhood diseases, or other causes, thus placing the Arab World in third place among developing nations with high infant mortality rates.

Most of the Arab children die of diarrhoea, food poisoning and bacteria, complications at birth, as well as other causes that could have been prevented had there been proper health care provided by society. Prince Hassan urged Arab countries to allocate funds specifically for raising children in a healthy atmosphere rather than spending lavishly on luxury projects. If the Health Ministry cannot protect our children from dying of these causes, something within our means and very essential for the future, then why should we go on building highways, bridges, airports, and purchase modern equipment and construct high rise buildings.

Now that the Arab Council for Child Development has been established, should we satisfy ourselves with this fact or are there other steps we should take to protect our children? In his address Prince Hassan referred to the 1980 Amman Arab summit which secured commitments from Arab countries to carry out economic development projects benefiting Arab society as a whole. We are nearing the end of the 1980s, but the Arabs have failed to translate their resolutions into practice. This is compounded by recent economic setbacks. Will the Arab Council for Child Development have a better prospect? Does it have a better chance than convening an Arab summit meeting? Unfortunately, we lack any evidence that can assure us of the future, and so we can only wait and see.

Saturday's call on Arab leaders and governments to make better provisions for Arab children should not go unheeded. The Arabs possess vast resources and huge potential that enable us to provide better care and better health for our children. Arab ministers of health and education have all heard the call; they should shoulder their responsibilities and be accountable for any failure. We hope that the birth of the new council will usher in a new stage of awareness, not merely the advent of a new Arab organisation incapable of fulfilling its real role.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Prince urges common action

ARAB Justice Ministers Saturday opened a meeting in Amman under the logo of "The Holy Rock" and heard Prince Hassan urging Arab countries to unify their efforts in the face of challenges and common dangers. Prince Hassan warned against the plots of the common enemy that aim at destroying Arab and Islamic culture, and which benefit from the weakness and the disarray in the ranks of the Arab and Muslim countries. Prince Hassan urged the Arab justice ministers to lay down rules and conduct studies on Arab and Islamic rights in Arab Jerusalem, and said that the challenge posed to the Arab Nation is a cultural challenge and every effort should be mobilised towards rescuing the holy land. The agenda of the ministers' meeting and the working papers they plan to study reflect the fact that the Arabs and Muslims have risen to the level of challenges and are quite aware of the dangers posed against them. It is hoped that the ministers' meeting will serve as a prelude to joint and effective steps to formulate joint judicial laws and rules governing civil, commercial and criminal affairs that can contribute to further cohesion among Arab states and lead towards further solidarity.

Al Dustour: Prince points to dangers

PRINCE Hassan Saturday opened a meeting by the Arab justice ministers and urged the delegates to translate the logo of "The Holy Rock," which dominates the meeting, into practice and into further intellectual, legal and judicial consensus which is one of the essential elements for unity among Arab states. The Prince's call comes at a time when the Zionists are escalating their plots and their conspiracies against Arab Jerusalem, The Holy Rock and the Arab inhabitants under their occupation. Therefore, Arab countries ought to work at all levels to fend off danger and strive to regain Arab Jerusalem and Arab rights in Palestine. The Arab ministers are quite aware of the critical stage the Arab Nation is going through at this moment, and they and the various national organisations in their countries shoulder serious responsibilities towards the Arab Nation and its interests and objectives. Prince Hassan has called on the ministers to revitalise the role and function of their national organisations which help them to uphold the pillars of justice and integrity. Prince Hassan's address to the ministers served as a reminder to the Arabs to undertake their work seriously and serve the coming generations.

Sawt Al Shaab: Coordinated aggression

IT is no coincidence for the Iranian regime to escalate its aggression on Iraq at a time when all efforts are being made by Iranian agents to undermine stability and security in Lebanon and when the Israeli authorities step up their arbitrary measures against the Arab inhabitants in the West Bank, the Golan Heights and the Gaza Strip. All these events are closely linked and all are designed to undermine the current efforts being made world-wide and spearheaded by Jordan to bring about a just and lasting peace to the region. These developments coincide in a time which witnesses an increasing world-wide support for the idea of an international conference on the Middle East. The Iranians and the Israelis are the sole beneficiaries of the continuing unrest in the Arab area and they, therefore, do everything in their power for perpetuating tension in Lebanon, along the Iran-Iraq border and inside the occupied Arab territories. The Iraqis are handling the affair on the front and inflicting defeat on the Iranian enemy and the Syrians are bringing peace, stability and security to Lebanon. But the Arabs ought to work in unity and concert if they wish to regain the usurped Arab rights in the Israeli-held Arab land. We need to see more serious efforts for holding an Arab summit meeting to help the entire Arab front its common enemies.

A doomsday scenario and man's way out

By Dr. Waleed Sa'di

AS astrophysicists predict, and there is a consensus among them, our Sun has reached its middle age having spent some 4.5 billion years of its projected 9 billion life expectancy. The implications for life, man and his environment are obviously too enormous and too awesome to even think about them. In its final years, the Sun is expected to use up its hydrogen fuel and its thermonuclear fires, which bring beautiful mornings and magnificent sunsets, are projected to cease as well. And in its dying years, the Sun will first overheat and enlarge to the extent that may engulf planet Mercury and even our own planet Earth. The heat generated in this over-heating stage would rise to 1000 times the degree of heat reaching us from the sun nowadays. With that kind of heat, our oceans, seas, lakes and rivers will boil to the extent they will not be able to sustain life and life on our planet is expected to be incinerated beyond recognition. And that is not all: The apocalyptic heat will be followed by a contraction process of the enlarged Sun and a cooling off process in which the Sun will become reduced in size to a core not bigger than our planet Earth and its thermonuclear fires turned off for all times. Planet Earth will therefore bibernate in eternal deep freeze.

These are the scientific scenarios drawn to us by scientists for our final and collective death. This could very well be the day of judgment or Yom Al Akhirah.

This picture sure looks gloomy with no known prospects to change the course of events leading to it. Mankind and his environment have grown to be fatalistic in accepting the inevitable. But God willing, man may still concoct a way out of his seemingly irreversible path and unavoidable finale. What could make man optimistic and lend him the luxury of dreaming of a way for his salvation lies in the fact that he has still some 5 billion years to

search for a blueprint for his survival and a path out and away from his predicament. It is equally inevitable that man will not just sit tight and await stoically his end without attempting to do something about it.

The 5 billion years grace period available to man will surely afford him ample opportunity to expand geometrically his technology to an extent he becomes capable of manipulating the aftermath of the demise of our Sun. Given the astronomical and phenomenal changes in high-technology over a relatively short period in the annals of mankind, it would not be too farfetched to imagine man's post-high technology developing and progressing to such a level as to enable man to conquer the seemingly inevitable.

One does not have to be a Julius Verne or a scientist with wild fiction fantasies to start thinking the unthinkable or even imagining the unimaginable and begin contemplating the various viable options or feasible alternatives that could be available to man over the course of the 5 billion years still available to him. There are obviously various probable scenarios which are available to man beginning with defensive or elusive measures against the hellish heat that will be generated by the Sun in its final incandescent years, and consequently with defensive or elusive measures against the freezing scenarios which will follow the demise of the Sun should man succeed in surviving the initial hellish heat of the Sun.

The first thought that comes to mind in these contexts is man's option to begin the process of colonising the planetary system in search of hospitable environment to which man can transfer himself and sustain the cycle of life on it. It is only reasonable to expect that in this universe of ours, where billions and billions of stars and planets are known to exist, man will eventually find another

suitable environment in which to continue propagating his species and sustain the life system necessary for his survival. But such a solution if feasible can save only some of humanity as the billions of human beings are just too many to transport to another hospitable planet. The few who could be "beamed up" or transported to another planet could best serve as future Adams and Eves to propagate human species on another alien star.

A more ambitious approach which can save more of humanity and life in general in their native planet could be had by devising, designing and structuring a defensive shield on the outer perimeter of planet Earth with a view to protect it first from the heat wave of the Sun and thereafter from the freezing wave which will ensue in chronological order in the final years of the Sun's life span. It should not be beyond the capacity of man and his post-high technology to draw an operational blueprint for such a dual purpose shield in the span of the 5 billion years grace period still fortunately available to him. It could be structured on the deployment of heat reflective material in the stratosphere.

If planet Earth could be thus saved from the scourge of the hellish heat from the Sun by technology, the same quality technology could also provide the heating process to man and his environment in the second stage of the doomsday predicted to us by both theologians and scientists, when planet Earth is expected to go into eternal deep freeze. God willing, man's ingenuity shall be so resourceful and abundant in the next 5 billion solar years that man can still save himself and his planet from the seemingly inevitable doom and destruction. To think of the unthinkable in this context is never one minute too soon.

Pentagon pressing for arms option on U.S. space station

By Charles Aldinger
 Reuter

WASHINGTON — Although the proposed U.S. space station has been billed so far as a civilian enterprise among allies, Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger this week raised the spectre of "Star Wars" weapons being put aboard.

The United States, he told Secretary of State George Shultz in a letter, must make clear that it retains military options for the station planned for the mid-1990s even if Western Europeans, Japan or Canada pull out of the \$14.5-billion effort.

Members of Congress and military analysts said if allies feared the station could turn into a weapons platform for President Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), the United States might be left alone to run the costly project.

Opposition surely will be voiced at the thought of lasers or other weapons mounted on civilians working on new medicines or studying the universe, according to Democratic congressman David Nagle, an Iowa Democrat.

Nagle, a member of the House space science and applications subcommittee, told the New York Times that if Weinberger's demands are adopted it could

cause "a race to get the hell out of the project by the allies."

Representative Norman Mineta, a California Democrat, has introduced a bill to ensure the space station will be used for civilian purposes only.

Neither the defence secretary nor Pentagon officials have made clear what "military options" might be exercised on the permanent manned orbiting space station if the need arises.

Dr. Moe Khine, head of space station liaison in Washington for the European Space Agency (ESA), said the agency would have no comment until all of the 13 member countries could be sounded out on their reaction.

"Nothing will be said until we have coordinated a response," he said. "As you know, negotiations are going on now."

It was not immediately clear what the State Department would do in its talks on the space station with the allies or if President Reagan might have to step in and mediate a fight with his administration.

It was Reagan who proposed the joint civilian venture in 1984.

But Pentagon officials told Reuters the Weinberger letter, sent to Shultz on April 7 and leaked to reporters by congressional sources, was a clear message.

"They (the allies) probably

would prefer to keep the military out of it," said one defence official, speaking on condition he not be identified.

"But after the shuttle disaster and other recent setbacks, we must not let possible allied reservations keep us from discussing it with them."

Although plans are not complete yet, published reports have said the Europeans plan to contribute \$2 billion in modules to the space station and Japan and Canada at least another \$1 billion each for non-military uses.

Reagan proposed the cooperative effort under the direction of the National Aerospace and Space Administration (NASA). NASA is still running the project, and NASA administrator James Fletcher has told a Senate appropriations subcommittee that "the station symbolises our nation's desire to cooperate with others in mutually beneficial civil space activities."

"It's the next step in space exploration," Fletcher said, pressing for Congress eventually to fund the lion's share of the cost. He said the first phase "could result in a permanent human presence on the station by early 1996."

The Soviet Union, Fletcher noted, already has two stations in space.

Nevertheless, Democratic senator William Proxmire of Wisconsin suggested the project could be delayed if costs escalate. Some published reports have said the station could cost closer to \$20 billion than \$14.5 billion.

"Space will still be out there. The stars will still be there," Proxmire said.

But in his letter to Shultz, Weinberger left little doubt that he felt the United States should press ahead and make clear to the allies that civilian scientists might have to share the platform with the military.

"While we recognise that the space station is a civil programme managed and funded by NASA, we regard it as an important national asset. It must be available for any national security purpose consistent with our international obligations," he said.

In the letter, Weinberger said he hoped the State Department negotiating team would be able to reach an agreement with those nations while at the same time "holding the line in these critical (military) areas."

"But if this is not possible, we must resist compromise of our fundamental principles for the sake of an agreement."

"We must be prepared to go forward alone if the price of cooperation is too high," he said.

Brunei is not troubled by missing \$10 million

By Kenneth L. Whiting
 The Associated Press

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Brunei — Brunei, a tiny country on Borneo's north coast, is a wealthy place — so much so that no one seems to worry about the disappearance of \$10 million donated by its sultan to the Nicaraguan coast.

The oil-rich nation has on national debt, no trade deficit, no balance of payment problems and always shows a surplus and foreign currency reserves of nearly \$20 billion.

That may be one reason that it was Brunei's sultan, Sir Hassan- al-Bolkiah, whom the United States looked to for assistance in soliciting funds for the Contras.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, Elliott Abrams asked

Sir Hassan- al-Bolkiah, which was to be sent to a Swiss bank account controlled by Lt. Col. Oliver North, aide to Vice Adm. John Poindexter of President Reagan's National Security Council.

But now, according to testimony contained in the Tower Commission report on the Iran-contra affair in Washington, the money cannot be traced.

"It is a mystery just what happened to that money," Secretary of State George P. Shultz said in January. "Whatever the concern in Washington, nobody in Brunei, as far as is known, is losing sleep over it. No public complaints or statements have come from official quarters."

Brunei's 220,000 people enjoy one of the world's highest per capita incomes, \$20,000 a year

— about \$3,000 more than in the United States. They pay no taxes, enjoy free medical care and get interest-free loans to buy houses and cars.

Brunei's wealth comes from oil. Some people call Brunei the "Shellfare state" because of the revenues that flow from Brunei Shell Petroleum, a joint venture between the government and Royal Dutch Shell.

Secular, religious and military power rests with the 40-year-old sultan, a hereditary ruler who functions as head of state as well as prime minister, defence minister and commander of the armed forces. One of his brothers is in charge of foreign affairs and another heads the finance ministry.

Educated at Britain's Sandhurst Military Academy, Sir

Hassanal is listed in the Guinness Book of world records as the richest individual because oil income and reserves are "effectively at his disposal."

As one of the world's few absolute monarchies, Brunei has not bothered to issue a formal statement about the missing \$10 million.

U.S. Ambassador Barrington King declined to discuss the matter with the Associated Press.

One Bruneian official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the \$10 million was transferred last August as "humanitarian" aid in response to the State Department request. He would not speculate on the sultan's motives for the gift intended for the guerrillas fighting the leftist Sandinista government in Nicaragua.

LETTERS

Strange voices

To the Editor:

RANDA Habib's column has always won my admiration and respect. Her articles usually reflect an honest and accurate appraisal of the topics she raises. However, I was taken aback while reading her article "Postcard from the hereafter" (Monday, April 6, 1987). Ms. Habib clearly misjudged an interview I had conducted with the famous Italian writer Albert Moravia. In her article I was directly quoted as asking questions that did not occur in the course of the interview. For example, I did not ask the great writer to "present himself," a question that Ms. Habib said typified our broadcasters and journalists.

If Ms. Habib had listened carefully to Moravia's replies she would have discovered that they did not answer the questions put forward in her article. But then, maybe Ms. Habib herself heard strange voices from the "hereafter."

Hoda Shawwa,
 JTV, Amman

Towards a National Neurological Centre

TO THE EDITOR: DURING past weeks, and days one could read, see and hear almost daily at least one article, comment or news in the local media concerning the problems of diseases of the nervous system, the fate of patients suffering such disorders and proposals for establishing a National Neurological Centre.

This fact alone clearly demonstrates the impact of nervous diseases on a nation and how important this issue is. Needless to say that for many years now, concerned and entitled members of the profession have been affirming the implicit necessity for a national centre of excellence. Studies have been conducted, projects envisaged and offered but have not been put into realisation. The reasons are many, but certainly also because the concept of a true national centre was, and I fear, still is not ripe enough in the minds of some, and not even welcomed by others.

Jordan is not poor at having qualified specialists in most concerned fields of this science. There are quite a few well equipped neurological-surgical departments and services, distributed among all health-delivering sectors of this country. Naturally all of them have to and indeed are improving their quality. The question is not if to have somehow a bigger or simply another one. If we read and listen carefully, we notice instantly that what is under discussion now are the "where to be" and the "belonging to whom?" However, what is really at stake is the following: Are we all honestly and genuinely talking about a national centre with all what this would implicate, e.g. irrevocable autonomy? If the answer is yes, then I shall believe that we are very serious, and that not only Jordanians may hope to enjoy the benefits of the expertise and skills of a willing team of qualified professionals, and rather soon.

Salah Salah
 Neurosurgeon
 Amman

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Butterflies: Victims of their own beauty

By Radhakrishna Rao

BANGALORE, India — The appeal of multicoloured and marvelously-patterned butterflies is so enormous that some airlines now offer special tours for butterfly-watchers to countries such as Indonesia, where there are large numbers of wonderful specimens. But some of the most gorgeous species are rapidly becoming extinct in the face of a flourishing international trade, some of which is legal, but much of which is not.

According to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the annual trade in butterflies is worth about U.S.\$100 million, and some of the so-called swallow-tailed variety can sell for as much as \$7,000 each.

India has been called a butterfly paradise, the home for about 1,400 species out of a global total of 20,000. But it has also become a special target for butterfly poachers, supported by a well-organised international syndicate.

About 90 per cent of India's butterfly population is to be found in the scenic, mountainous north-eastern region, from which the insects are smuggled out into neighbouring Bangladesh — eventually making their way to the homes of rich American or European collectors. Conservationists in India are worried because such exquisite species as Bhutan Glory, Kaiser-i-Hind and Krishna Peacock are disappearing from the region at an alarming rate.

Meanwhile, in the Western Ghats in south India — another important habitat for butterflies — the rapid destruction of humid, subtropical forests is contributing to the disappearance of butterflies in a big way. As the jungles vanish, so the environment becomes hostile to their proliferation. Because many butterflies have a close association with particular flora, they can be quickly pushed into oblivion by ecological change.

Recently, the government of India extended the scope of its Wildlife Preservation Act to cover

er those butterflies that have been declared an endangered species — with some success. But as is the case in several poor tropical countries where so many of these jewels of creation are concentrated, the effective prevention of their extinction at present seems a luxurious if not impossible proposition.

The graceful blue-striped variety known as the Krishna Peacock is now being bunted with great zeal by poachers and smugglers in north-eastern India, as it is in great demand on the international butterfly market. Depending on its colour, beauty and pattern, each butterfly can fetch between \$20 and \$2,000.

Probably the most sought-after butterfly species of all is the swallow-tail family, which is sent live to zoos or dead to collectors — or even dissected and pieces of wing embalmed in plastic souvenirs.

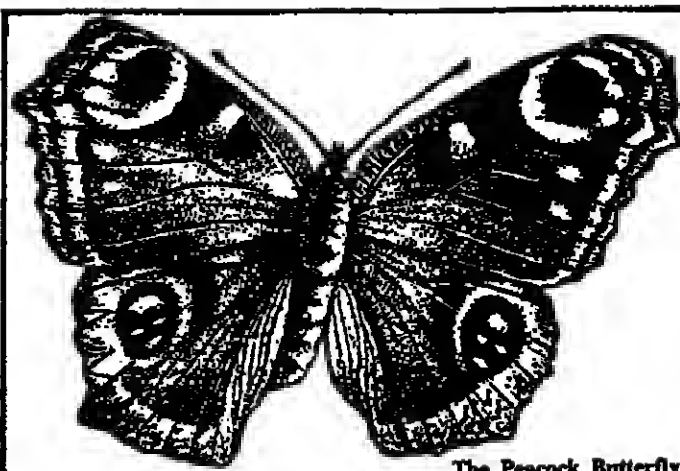
The nerve-centre of this little-known but thriving trade is Taiwan, where factories transform a mind-boggling 500 million butterflies a year into tablemats,

bookmakers and coasters. This is a \$20-30 million dollar business, employing over 20,000 people.

Other countries that have cashed in on this trade include Brazil, Indonesia, Madagascar and Papua-New Guinea. In New Guinea, unscrupulous and avaricious collectors are threatening the most valuable and colourful species, Queen Alexandra's Birdwing.

Unlike several other countries, Papua-New Guinea has a well-organised infrastructure for the trading in butterflies. The government has encouraged ranching, by which insect farming and trading agencies provide a guaranteed price to butterfly "ranchers" who earn their living from them.

A typical butterfly ranch in New Guinea consists of a few acres of gardens in which the farmers grow plants that attract butterflies from outside. The butterflies come in from the forest, to feed and to lay their eggs. When the eggs hatch, the caterpillars grow on the cultivated plants and are collected as chry-



The Peacock Butterfly

salises by the local villagers.

From the chrysalises emerge pristine adults, only to face instant death, and to end up as decorative pieces in the houses of rich Japanese and Western enthusiasts. Hardworking New Guinean butterfly ranchers can thereby earn as much as \$1,200 a year.

The threat faced by butterflies has attracted the attention and concern of conservationists and governments in several countries. In India, for example, the recent enforcement of strict conservation measures, and the posting of

an assistant director of wildlife at various important airports has reduced the incidence of poaching.

Another major step taken by India — which could be followed elsewhere — has been to try to avert the illegal trading in butterflies by the setting up of a series of butterfly farms, which rear species in captivity along scientific lines. Besides reducing the threat to butterflies in the wild, these farms can generate much-needed employment in remote rural areas — Earthscan feature.

It's goats vs. giant tortoises on treasured Aldabra island

By Joy Aschenbach
National Geographic

WASHINGTON — Bruce Coblentz has his orders: Shoot all 1,000 goats on Aldabra Atoll.

Armed with small-caliber rifles, he started a more than 10,000 miles journey in January to the most isolated of the Seychelles to begin the task of killing the feral goats that threaten one of the last unspoiled natural environments on earth.

Aldabra, a ring of coral islands encircling a large lagoon in the western Indian Ocean, is home to 150,000 giant land tortoises, the world's largest population, more than 10 times that on the Galapagos Islands, the only other natural population.

It is also home to the last colony of flightless white-throated rail, rare brush warblers, frigate birds, green turtles, and robber crabs. In 1982 this natural wonder was designated a United Nations World Heritage Site.

Goats not native

Goats don't belong there. And at the moment, they are among the greatest threats to Aldabra's extraordinary ecosystem. "A number of island ecosystems around the world are endangered more by foreign organisms than by any other factor," says Coblentz, a wildlife ecologist at Oregon State University.

Introduced species, brought by settlers or dropped off by passing sailors, often have no natural predators on islands and are able to overpopulate and outcompete native species, disrupting the delicate ecological balance.

Goats, pigs, dogs, cats, and rats as well as a host of insects and exotic plants have had a destructive impact on island systems such as Hawaii, New Zealand, California's Channel Is-

lands, and Ecuador's Galapagos. No one knows how the goats got to Aldabra. Scant records indicate that they have been there at least since 1878, but it is possible they were left centuries earlier by Arab or Portuguese sailors.

The Aldabra goat population has nearly doubled recently, from about 500 in 1977 to about 1,000 in 1985, says biologist Margaret Gould Burke of the University of North Dakota. Dr. Burke, whose research was supported in part by the National Geographic Society, was the first scientist to study Aldabra's goats.

Heavy rain a problem

She is not certain what caused the sudden swell in the numbers, but believes it may be the abundant rainfall of the last 10 years. Rain increases the growth of bushes and trees the goats thrive on. Rainwater puddles provide their only source of fresh water.

Scientists who use Aldabra as a natural laboratory are not as alarmed by the total number of goats as they are by their recent rapid reproduction. Goats have a tremendous potential for reproducing at even greater rates.

Already they are changing Aldabra's vegetation. "Hungry goats can stand on their hind legs and eat everything up to 6 feet," Dr. Burke says.

"Giant tortoises can crawl on top of one another to get leaves off bushes, but the goats' high browse line is out of reach of even the most agile of tortoises," says David R. Stoddart of the University of Cambridge, England.

Stoddart was a leader in the campaign to save Aldabra and is on the board of the Seychelles Islands Foundation.

Shooting the goats is "the most humane, effective, and quickest method," says Coblentz, who,

with a partner, were to start by killing the 200 to 300 on Ile Malabar, one of Aldabra's four main islands. "It won't look pretty for a time," he says. "But the only economic way is to leave the carcasses to recycle into the ecosystem."

In the race with the goat, the tortoise may be winning, but the ancient creature has struggled to survive. The tortoises were in danger of becoming extinct by the late 19th century because they had been hunted for centuries by sailors.

Some protective measures were taken in the early 20th century, but they were almost impossible to enforce. Not until 1953, when undersea explorer Jacques-Yves Cousteau sailed to Aldabra, did interest in protecting its wildlife revive.

But in the mid-1960s this island jewel encountered its worst threat. Part of the British Indian Ocean Territory at the time, Aldabra was targeted as the site of a military air base and a BBC transmitter station and tower. The 5,000-foot runway was to be paved straight through the area of greatest tortoise concentration.

Tight military takeover

When details of the plan emerged, the Royal Society of London and the Smithsonian Institution led the fight against the military takeover. Stoddart was sent on a reconnaissance mission in 1966.

"The beaches were covered with tortoises. Without turning your head you could count a couple hundred at once," he recalls.

Nothing has been built on Aldabra except a research station. Stoddart, who has championed the island for 20 years and whose 19-year-old daughter is named Aldabra, says it has survived unspoiled largely because



This humbling giant land tortoise is one of 150,000 that live on Aldabra Atoll in the Seychelles Islands, one of the last unspoiled natural environments on earth. The atoll's giant-tortoise population, the largest in the world, is threatened by a thousand

non-indigenous feral goats that compete for edible shrubbery. To protect the tortoises and Aldabra's ecology, the Seychelles Islands Foundation has ordered that all the goats be shot.

of its geography.

Aldabra lies off the major ocean-shipping routes. It takes four to five days to get there by boat, chartered from the main Seychelles island, Mahe.

Aldabra is inhospitable — lashed by dangerous currents, 12-foot tides, and high winds. Much of its terrain is deeply jagged, razor-sharp rock, and covered by impenetrable shrubbery. Uninhabited except for the small staff manning the research station, the island had only 20 visitors in 1986, most of them scientists and journalists.

New film mocks British sexual hypocrisy

By Deborah Telford
Reuters

LONDON — A respectable-looking middle-aged woman who treated members of Britain's upper crust to wild sex parties in her suburban London home has inspired a new movie which takes a swipe at British sexual hypocrisy.

The film, "Personal Services", is loosely based on Cynthia Payne, who was tried for controlling prostitutes in her "House of 1,001 Delights" and became a sort of naughty national heroine when she was acquitted in February.

Payne — dubbed Madame Cyn by the country's tabloids — kept Britons amused for weeks during her trial with her bawdy outspokenness about sex.

They devoured juicy details of the orgies and sexual bondage that went on at her parties and read newspaper reports that her clients included a Lord, an Irish member of parliament and a clergyman.

Police monitored Payne's activities for years and gathered evidence against her by sending to her home two detectives dressed as an English country gentleman and a bisexual Welsh hotel owner.

They brought her to court after raiding her home in the biggest ever such police operation on a suspected brothel.

And now that Payne's trial is over, the story has moved from the courtroom into the cinema. Reviews of "Personal Services" have been splashed all over British magazines and newspapers along with photographs of some of the film's characters — dressed as nannies, school girls and leather-clad masochists ready to live out their favourite sexual fantasies.

The film's director, Terry Jones, says Britain's interest in

Payne highlights the hypocrisy of a society which likes sex dressed up as a scandal it can both enjoy and disapprove of.

He said Christine Painter, the movie character inspired by Payne and portrayed by Julie Walters, is appealing to Britons because she is respectable.

"She's also not particularly sexy, so she can be very outspoken about sex without it being immediately erotic. That way Englishmen's fears of the erotic are assuaged, and they can still enjoy the fascination of it," Jones told Reuters.

"English people seem to have to get their sex under some other guise. They have a particular inhibition about it. Maybe it's because we wear a lot of clothes," he said.

Jones has directed some of Britain's most irreverent movies including "Life of Brian" which portrays Jesus Christ as a type of amiable buffoon and "The Meaning of Life" which satirises Christian beliefs about heaven and hell.

The initial poster for "Personal Services" depicted a large jolly lady about to whip a businessman

dressed in a bikini. It was banned in Britain, and the entire film has been banned in Ireland.

"I'm incredibly impressed. Only four films have been banned in Ireland (since 1980). One was Ken Russell's "Crimes of Passion" and the other three have been directed by me. I'm going to try to get into the Guinness Book of records," Jones said.

He insisted that although "Personal Services" is funny, it is not meant to be just a raunchy tale of middle-aged men who are entertained by money-hungry prostitutes.

Panda Habib's Corner

Surviving in a 'corner'

TODAY marks the end of the fifth year since the start of this corner, and this one starts the sixth. And in celebrating this occasion, I feel an urge to reflect on the past and dream of the future.

With its ups and downs, praise and criticism, this corner has survived the odds — I would say happily, fruitfully and positively — for five years. Even if one is not able to change the world, one still has to try, I believe. And only by looking closely at one's own mistakes that one could improve. This in fact was the main reason for this corner: Constructive criticism in hope of constructive change. But I must admit that it has not been easy. Touching on too sensitive issues — as my editor calls them — meant at times the disappearance of the corner.

On the other side, my readers often called me to urge me to write about certain matters, to be even more daring and to shed light on tens of issues. Well, all I could tell them was that I was doing my best.

I consider myself to be lucky being a columnist in Jordan, a country that accepts open criticism, with maturity a rare example in this part of the Third World. And if we had some limits, even those are getting more relaxed with the passage of time. But ours is a long and patience — demanding job: Walking on tight ropes, pushing further every day while still surviving with the rules.

Reflecting on the past five years, the most gratifying feeling one gets out of this corner is the feeling that some criticism had its effect and that a few errors were corrected as a result. One must humbly recall that opinions aired through this corner were not always perfect, but after all, one can only see things from his or her own "corner."

However, propelled by one's feeling of belonging to this dynamic and ever-progressing country, one cannot but feel obliged to continue to strive for a better future for us and the generations to come.

Abu Dhabi opens aircraft maintenance centre

By Issam Hamza
Reuters

ABU DHABI — The doors of a giant hangar swung open and slid a Lockheed TriStar jet, the first customer of a new aircraft maintenance centre owned by the Abu Dhabi government and Gulf Air.

The \$100 million facility at Abu Dhabi international airport, which opened last month, is the second largest in the Middle East and the first to be open to all airlines.

Sultan Ghanoum Al Hameli, undersecretary of the Abu Dhabi Civil Aviation Department, told Reuters it would help spur activity in the local economy and bring new income to Gulf Air, a regional airline owned by the governments of Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and Abu Dhabi.

Gulf Air owns 40 per cent of the Gulf Aircraft Maintenance Company (GAMCO), established in 1981 with remaining shares held by the Abu Dhabi government.

Like other airlines in the Middle East, it has suffered from shrinking passenger revenues caused by recession and stiff air-

line competition.

Hameli said that in addition to the servicing of Gulf Air's fleet of 20 jets, previously handled in Hong Kong and Brussels, GAMCO will offer aircraft, engine and component overhaul, repair and modifications to other Middle East airlines.

Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia now have aircraft maintenance centres for their national carriers, and Saudi's in Jeddah is the Middle East's largest.

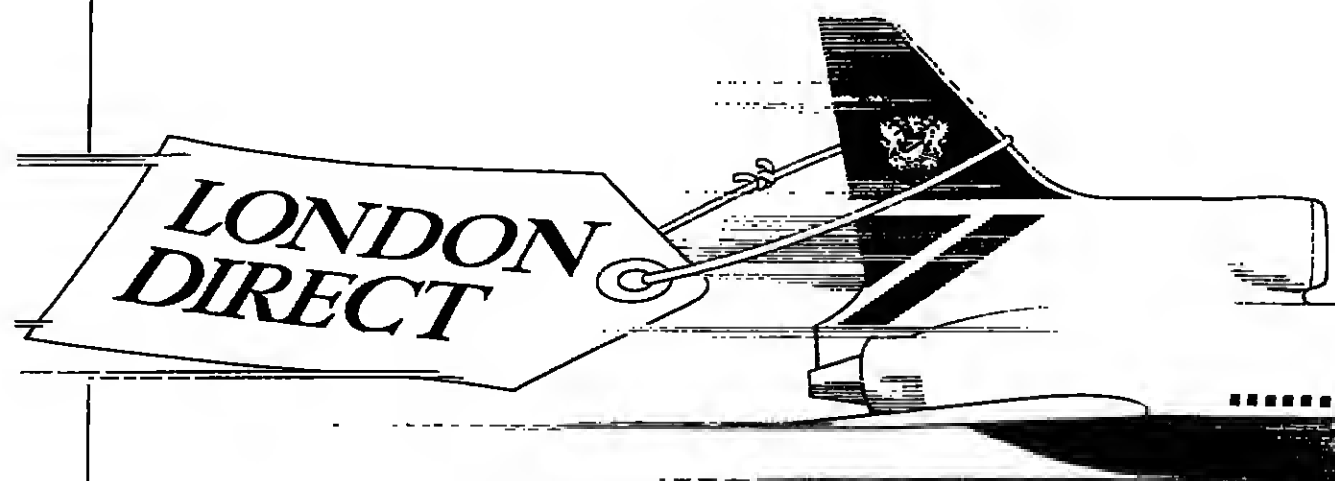
Construction began in 1984 on a 55-hectare area linked with the airport's main runway by special taxiways. The main bangar is designed to accommodate two Boeing 747 Jumbo jets.

Alongside it are shop areas to repair aircraft components. More than 300 engineers and specialists, mostly from Europe, India and the Philippines, will be employed.

"We are very optimistic that we will attract other airlines to service their aircraft at our facility," Hameli said.

Aviation sources said Emirates, a rival to Gulf Air set up by the Emirates of Dubai in October 1985, was discussing possible use of the facility with GAMCO.

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Coventry overcomes Leeds in overtime FA Cup match

LONDON (R) — Striker Dave Bennett snatched an extra-time winner as Coventry overcame Second Division Leeds 3-2 to clinch its place in the English Football Association (FA) Cup final against Tottenham.

Bennett, who tasted defeat against Tottenham when he played for Manchester City in the 1981 final at Wembley, forced the ball home in the 98th minute after Leeds, who took an early lead, had threatened to pull off a surprise result Sunday.

After being fouled, he ran forward to meet a downward header by Cyrille Regis from substitute Micky Gynn's free kick and shot home from close range. The goal

ended Leeds' resistance and sealed Coventry's first appearance in an FA Cup final.

Leeds began the semifinal, played in front of a 51,372 crowd at Hillsborough, Sheffield, in a determined and aggressive fashion and took the lead in the 13th minute when Dave Rennie headed in from a corner.

But Coventry refused to be intimidated and placed its way back carefully, with the introduc-

tion of Gynn proving crucial when he swept in a 68th minute equaliser from Bennett's cross.

Coventry went in front 10 minutes later when Keith Houchen burst through to beat goalkeeper Mervyn Day at the second attempt.

Leeds then sent on two substitutes and one of them, striker Keith Edwards, supplied a late equaliser with a header from Andy Ritchie's cross six minutes from the end of normal time.

Coventry dominated extra time once the outstanding Bennett had put it 3-2 ahead and is likely to provide stern opposition to stylish Tottenham at Wembley on May 16.

Maradona, Napoli suffer nightmare loss to Verona

ROME (R) — Diego Maradona suffered a nightmare return to Verona as he failed to score from a penalty during a 3-0 defeat which halved Napoli's lead at the top of the Italian soccer First Division.

With four games to play, Napoli leads Internazionale Milan by two points and defending champion Juventus by four. Internazionale won 1-0 at Avellino, thanks to the marksmanship of Sandro Altobelli, and Juventus 2-0 against Roma.

Napoli, who has not won at Verona in nine years, slumped to its third defeat of the season at the Bentegodi Stadium Sunday, which has become a scene of disappointment for Maradona and Napoli.

Maradona made his Italian debut there for Napoli nearly three years in a 3-1 defeat and looked well below his best Sunday. His only shot came from the spot in the 87th minute — an effort which Verona goalkeeper Giuliano Giuliani saved.

Verona, the 1985 champion, had taken a 22nd minute lead through striker Marco Pacione's header from a free kick. The 15,000 fans who had trekked from Naples to make up nearly half the crowd had further cause for despair 10 minutes later when midfielder Luciano Sola, replacing the in-

jured Luigi Cuffarelli, turned the ball into his own net. He was immediately replaced by Andrea Carnevale.

Napoli's misery was completed five minutes before the interval when Danish Cup striker Preben Elkjaer converted a penalty.

Juventus' win owed much to French midfielder Michel Platini, who created both goals. In the sixth minute, he set up striker Aldo Serena, whose first shot was saved by Franco Tancredi. But Serena headed in the rebound.

Platini produced another imaginative pass to supply Massimo Briacchi, Serena's substitute, with Juventus' second goal in the 58th minute.

AC Milan enjoyed a revival under new coach Fabio Capello, who replaced Swede Nils Liedholm last week.

Capello promoted English striker Mark Hateley from the substitute's bench and the team, which had picked up only one point in four games, beat Torino 1-0. Hateley capitalising on a bad defensive mistake to grab the winner in the 30th minute.

At the bottom of the table, Udinese, who has failed to make up a nine-point handicap imposed for its part in a betting scandal, is now mathematically certain of relegation after a goalless draw against Como.

Cyprus holds Poland to draw in Euro soccer

WARSAW (R) — Goalkeeper Andreas Chariton defied the much-vaunted Polish attack to earn Cyprus a surprise 0-0 draw in its European Soccer Championship Group Five tie in Gdansk.

Poland's attacking 3-3-4 line-up enjoyed total outfield supremacy but it was kept at bay by a tenacious Cypriot defence and the home side's long-range shooting failed to trouble the impressive Chariton.

Despite the disappointing Sunday result, Poland remains a strong candidate for a place in the 1988 finals in West Germany as it has games in hand over both Greece and The Netherlands who lead the section.

For Cyprus, it was its first point after four successive defeats.

Djibouti's Saleh wins World Cup Marathon

SEOUL (R) — Ahmed Saleh of Djibouti Sunday resisted a strong challenge from Japan's Taisuke Kodama to win the World Cup Marathon for the second successive time in two hours 10 minutes 55 seconds.

Saleh, winner of the first World Cup in Hiroshima in 1985, ran shoulder to shoulder with Kodama at the front for the first 33 kilometres of the 42.195-kilometre race over the 1988 Olympic course before making his move.

Kodama, who won last October's Peking Marathon in 2:07:35, the third fastest time ever run, battled to get back on terms but eventually crossed the line 28 seconds adrift in 2:11:23 with Italian Salvatore Bettiol third in 2:11:28.

Two other Italians, Salvatore Nicosia and Osvaldo Faustini, finished fourth and fifth respectively as Italy won the team event ahead of Japan and France.

U.S. panel calls for 1994 World Cup in America

DALLAS (AP) — Soccer's world governing body should seriously consider a U.S. bid to host the 1994 World Cup, members of a panel discussion said.

"We do have the fans, we do have the people to come to the games," said Hugo Salcedo, who was instrumental in the success of the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics soccer events.

The Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) is expected to announce this week that the United States will be among countries that have submitted bids to host the games.

National keeps lead in Egyptian league

CAIRO (R) — Title-holder National of Cairo drew 0-0 with Egypt's Premier Soccer League with 47 points.

National's strikers were on the attack for most of the 90 minutes but failed to penetrate Tarsana's strong eight-player defence.

National's Cairo rival, Zamalek, has 46 points and will play National on April 22 to determine the championship. National will need only a draw to win the title.

Graf struggles to down Sabatini in women's tennis

HILTON HEAD, South Carolina (R) — Steffi Graf of West Germany won a baseline battle with Argentina's Gabriela Sabatini in the semifinals to reach the finals against Marnila Maleeva of Bulgaria at the \$300,000 Hilton Head Women's Tennis Championships.

Graf, ranked second in the world, defeated ninth ranked Sabatini, the fifth seed, 6-3, 2-6, 7-6 in a two-hour and 15-minute match.

In the other semifinal, Maleeva, ranked 11th, upset second-seeded Chris Evert Lloyd of the United States, in another marathon three-set match.

Maleeva had beaten Lloyd, third-ranked in the world, only once before, also on clay, in their 13 previous matches.

Graf, 17, won this tournament a year ago and holds a phe-

nominal record since then, going on to win nine of the 13 tournaments she has played in the previous 12 months. She had beaten Sabatini, 16, in all three of their previous meetings but always in three sets.

Graf and Sabatini played a thrilling battle contested mainly from the baseline that lasted two hours and 15 minutes.

After splitting the first two sets, Sabatini used her powerful topspin to forge a tremendous comeback in the third set, fighting back from 1-5 down to lead 6-5, and in the process saved three match points.

Games then went on serve to 6-6 and a tiebreaker.

Graf missed another match point at 6-4, but finally clinched victory with a blazing forehand down the line to win the tiebreaker 7-5.

Crenshaw, Maltbie share lead in Masters golf

AUGUSTA, Georgia (R) — Ben Crenshaw fired four birdies in the last six holes to share the lead with fellow-American Roger Maltbie after an enthralling third round of the Masters golf tournament.

Crenshaw, the popular Texan who won the title in 1984, finished in superb style to record a five-under-par 67 as several celebrated champions made dramatic moves toward the top of the leader board.

Maltbie carded a two-under-par 70 Saturday to add to his brilliant second-round 66 as he and Crenshaw finished on a four-under-par 212 total.

But behind them, Australian Greg Norman, West German Bernhard Langer and Spain's Severiano Ballesteros all eased menacingly into contention for the nerve-jangling final round.

Norman, after sluggish rounds of 73 and 74, fulfilled his promise of playing with more aggression and cut loose with a six-under-par 66 to lay one-stroke back with 1985 champion Langer on 213. It was the big-hitting Australian's best round here in six previous appearances.

Ballesteros, winner here in 1980 and two strokes up going into the final four holes last year, was one stroke further back after a fine 70. He shared a two-under-par 214 total with Taiwan's Tz-Chung Chen and Americans Larry Mize and Curtis Strange.

Strange, sole leader after the second round, lost his grip on the tournament after surviving amen corner, Augusta National's notorious 11th, 12th and 13th holes.

He bogeyed three holes in succession from the 14th and finished with a one-over-par 73. But defending champion Jack Nicklaus will have to produce a finishing surge similar to last year if he is to retain his title at the age of 47.

Nicklaus, who won in 1986 after starting the final round six shots adrift, shot 73 Saturday — he is yet to break par this year — to share a three-over-par 219 total with three others. He trails the leaders by seven strokes.

North Korea calls on FIFA to reconsider ban

TOKYO (R) — North Korea urged the International Football Federation (FIFA) to reconsider a decision to exclude Pyongyang from the 1988 Olympic soccer competition in Seoul following its failure to play qualifying ties.

"We cannot understand why FIFA has taken unreasonable 'sanctions' so hurriedly without any justification and cannot accept it," the North Korean Football Association said in a statement.

The North Korean Central News Agency quoted a spokesman as saying the association "hopes that the FIFA will set right the wrong situation and states that it is ready to render active cooperation for this."

North Korea did not play any of its Asian regional qualifying ties in Kuala Lumpur last month. FIFA said that under Olympic soccer tournament regulations North Korea was deemed to have

lost the games and was excluded from further participation.

The North Korean spokesman said Pyongyang's non-appearance was in accordance with the Olympic soccer rule that the best country of the Olympic Games was entitled to take part in the games without playing regional ties.

International Olympic Committee officials are trying to reach a compromise on North Korea's demand that it jointly host next year's Olympics with South Korea. Pyongyang has threatened to organize a Communist Bloc boycott of the event unless its demands are met.

Saying that "a final agreement should be reached" at the next round of talks in Lausanne with South Korea and the IOC, he said his country's participation in the preliminaries would "mean that we give up our proposal for co-hosting the Olympic Games."

U.S. defeats S. Korea in pre-Olympic field hockey

EDINBURGH, Scotland (AP) — A burst of three goals in the space of two minutes helped the United States to a 4-0 victory over South Korea in a six-nation pre-Olympic women's field hockey tournament at the Meadowbank Stadium.

In other matches, three goals by captain Marjolain Bolhuis-Eijvoogel gave world champion Netherlands a 3-2 victory over Spain and Britain downed Ireland 2-0 in a competition which is part of the elimination process for next year's Olympics in Seoul.

The American team's victory was its third from four matches.

The Koreans, with their speedy and skilful style of play, made the better start and forced U.S. goalkeeper Patty Shea into two fine saves.

However the floodgates opened at the other end in the 32nd minute when the Americans were awarded a penalty corner and defender Megan Donnelly struck the ball cleanly into the net.

The United States scored its second goal almost at once before the Koreans had had time to reorganise in defence.

Bordeaux routs Marseille to regain lead in France

PARIS (R) — Bordeaux swept to a punishing 3-0 home victory over arch rival Marseille in a bitter clash to regain top place in the French Soccer Championship.

It was an emotional but sad return for Marseille's tiny playmaker Alain Giresse, Bordeaux's captain until he was unceremoniously sacked last July on the assumption he was too old at 34.

Giresse was at the centre of an incident which cast a shadow over the much-awaited highlight of the season.

A nasty tackle by Bordeaux right back Gernot Rohr on Giresse infuriated Marseille's Senegalese international Abdoulaye Diallo, who started a fight with Rohr, prompting referee Robert

Wurtz to send off both players. Bordeaux outclassed Marseille with goals by striker Philippe Fargoon and veteran midfielder Rene Girard in the first half and international Jose Touré in the second.

Marseille, one point ahead of Bordeaux before the match, never looked likely a winner.

Both Parisian clubs crashed. Racing Paris lost 2-1 at home to Saint-Etienne and Paris-Saint-Germain was beaten 2-0 at Le Havre.

Chef Oudjani put Racing ahead after 16 minutes but Moroccan international Merry Kriman replied twice.

Pascal Pain and Czechoslovak midfielder Ladislav Visek scored for Le Havre.

Bayern Munich moves closer to retaining title

BONN (R) — Champion Bayern Munich moved a step closer to retaining the West German League title when it beat Borussia Moenchengladbach 1-0 away to maintain its three-point lead over Hamburg.

Watched by a capacity crowd in Moenchengladbach's Bokerberg Stadium which had turned up to see the clash between West Germany's two survivors in the European Cup, Dieter Hoernes headed the ball into the net in the 35th minute.

Hamburg, the only team with an outside chance of challenging Bayern for the title, defeated Waldhof Mannheim 1-0 at home Saturday night to take it to 33 points in the table.

Lothar Dittmar scored for Hamburg in the 39th minute with a five-metre shot.

Werder Bremen moved up from sixth to third place, four points behind Hamburg, with a 4-1 win over Eintracht Frankfurt. Scorers for Werder were Norbert Meier, Thomas Wolter, Gunmar Sauer and Rudi Voeller.

WBC defends its sanctioning of Leonard-Hagler title bout

MEXICO CITY (R) — The Mexico-based World Boxing Council (WBC) said Sugar Ray Leonard's recent victory over Marvelous Marvin Hagler for the world middleweight crown had proved the WBC right for backing Leonard's return to the ring.

In a long statement WBC President Jose Sulaiman said that far from damaging the image of boxing, as critics had predicted, the dramatic 11-round fight had "put boxing back on its feet."

Sulaiman described the result — a points decision in favour of Leonard — as "fabulous."

"The WBC feels profoundly proud, happy and satisfied over what this grandiose and sensational fight means for the future of boxing and for the poor boys of the world... who find in our sport a helping hand that assists them in leaving misery behind... to become heroes in their countries and in the sporting world," Sulaiman's statement said.

Criticising anyone who suggested the fight was rigged, the WBC chief said the 1,200 journalists at the bout "did not have the slightest doubt as to the unquestionable honesty of this fight."

Mansell takes pole position for Brazilian Grand Prix

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Britain's Nigel Mansell, in a Williams, claimed pole position for the Brazilian Grand Prix, opening event of the Formula One season.

He clocked one minute 26.128 seconds in the second official practice at the 5.031 kilometre Jacarepagua Track, slightly quicker than his Brazilian teammate Nelson Piquet who was second with one minute 26.567 seconds.

"I will take things easy for the race, but now I am in pole position and I think I have a very good set-up on the car. I just hope not to have any problems," Mansell told a news conference.

Saturday was Mansell's fifth pole position of his Formula One career. His average speed was 210.287 kilometres per hour (kph) on the long straight he reached 309.48 kph.

Piquet, disappointed at having lost the pole after finishing first in the first day practice, was involved in an accident in the official session.

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Weekly Financial Report

By Fouad Baishon

The following report summarizes trading activities in Amman of major European and Arab currencies as well as gold prices. The writer is a foreign exchange dealer at the Arab Finance Corporation (merged with Hallam Salafit and Sons Co.).

AMMAN — Last week, the U.S. dollar opened higher because dealers were covering their short positions on the currency before the meeting of the Group of Five on Wednesday. After the meeting, dealers began selling the U.S. unit because reports and interviews with financial ministers said

that they were happy to the gradual fall of the dollar and with the present levels of the various currencies. The dollar fell heavily against the Japanese yen.

The dollar traded in the range of 0.332-0.336 Jds in the JD.

Charts still indicate that the dollar is going to fall more this week to new lows against the Deutsch Mark (D.M.), Swiss franc (S.F.) and the Japanese yen.

The expected dollar range for this week is 0.328-0.336 Jds. The pound sterling gained ground against the dollar mainly because of higher interest rates and the higher North Sea oil.

The pound sterling pushed to a high of 0.5530 Jds from 0.5450 Jds.

The D.M./S.F. moved in a narrow range due to the uncertainty in the dollar market. D.M. traded between 0.1850-0.1900 Jds and the S.F. between 0.220-0.2295 Jds.

The Lebanese lira (L.L.) moved lower against the dollar because of the bad military situation in Lebanon. It traded between (320-360) L.L./JD.

The Syrian lira traded between (80-83) S.L./JD, the Kuwaiti dinar traded between JD 1.2150 to JD 1.2250, the Egyptian pound traded between 0.1780-0.182 Jds and the Iraqi dinar between 0.24-0.25 Jds.

Metals traded higher because of the lower dollar. Gold jumped from a low of \$418 an ounce to \$436 an ounce. Silver from \$6.50 an ounce to \$7.00 an ounce.

Charts indicate that the metals should move up higher this week towards \$450 an ounce before testing \$415 an ounce later in the week.

Gold prices in Amman based on the dollar bulletin by the Jordan Jewellery Store are as follows:

Gold per gramme 21 carats JD (4.20-4.10)
Gold per gramme 18 carats JD (4.10-3.950).

Indonesia promotes investment

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia, promoting what it sees as a more attractive investment climate, will launch a trade drive in Singapore Monday and is actively lobbying European Community countries.

Mr. Ginandjar Kartasasmita, chairman of Indonesia's Investment Coordinating Board, told a one-day meeting with European Community (EC) members in Jakarta on Friday that Indonesia had changed its investment regulations and now offered a very attractive environment.

The official, who will also lead a 57-member delegation to Singapore to promote investment in South East Asia's largest nation, said foreign businessmen were already taking a greater interest in Indonesia.

Indonesia, the only Asian member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, has seen its export earnings halved by the world slump in oil prices and is eager to attract foreign investment to maintain growth.

But Belgian ambassador, Mr. Jan Hellemans, who chaired the Indonesia-EC meeting, said a lack of clear rules, inadequate copyright and patent legislation, and problems over land use were hampering investment.

Mr. Ginandjar agreed that European countries and the United States considered Indonesia's protection of copyright and patents inadequate, but said the government was attempting to remedy this.

The U.S. embassy said last week that Washington had postponed imposing trade sanctions against Indonesia for six months because Jakarta was pushing a trademark and copyright bill through parliament.

The Reagan administration had threatened to remove In-

donesia from its generalised system of preferences, a programme that eliminates duties on about 3,000 categories of imports from developing countries to help them compete in the U.S. market, unless Jakarta brought in the copyright legislation.

The team of 10 Jakarta government officials and 47 businessmen will hold a one-day seminar in Singapore on investment and business opportunities in Indonesia, particularly prospects on Batam island, a development scheme close to Singapore.

The mission will also meet with the Singapore chamber of commerce. Mr. Ginandjar said Singapore was interested in food processing projects, along with shrimp and pig farming.

In 1986, potential foreign investment, outside the oil sector, that had been approved by the government fell to \$826.2 million from \$859 million in 1985, and a record \$2.73 billion in 1982, according to government figures, although actual investment was running at under half this.

Indonesia has brought in a series of rule changes since last May, but businessmen say they are still worried by corruption, red tape and tight economic restrictions that include a stipulation that foreign investors cannot own land.

Meanwhile, the six members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) said they had agreed to increase their exchange of information about tax conditions.

A special committee meeting in Jakarta on Friday said that foreign investors could not play one ASEAN country off another by asking for special incentives.

ASEAN groups Indonesia with Malaysia, Brunei, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

Lira's collapse dismays Lebanese

BEIRUT (R) — For many Lebanese, the collapse of their currency seems the last straw after 12 years of civil war.

They now face runaway inflation, economic stagnation and prospects of rapid impoverishment, while their weak government is paralysed by disputes between Christian and Muslim factions.

"If the lira goes on falling, we are headed for famine and catastrophe," said Mr. Hussein Abdallah, 36, a father of five employed as a messenger for an insurance company.

Local industrialists see advantages in the low-priced lira, but say a government credit squeeze is hampering expansion.

The lira, once buoyed by the central bank's large gold reserves and a healthy balance of payments, has lost 84 per cent of its international value in the past 15 months.

Because Lebanon imports at least 85 per cent of what it consumes, the lira's plunge has sent domestic prices soaring.

Lebanon's General Labour Federation said consumer prices rose by a record 24.3 per cent in January and by 16.7 per cent in February. The minimum wage, which public and private sectors should observe, is now 3,250 Liras (\$29) a month.

"I take home 9,500 Liras (\$84) a month including extras," said a police captain who asked not to be named. "We got a 40-per cent pay rise last July, but it hasn't been paid."

The captain, with a wife and three children, said social pressure called on him to live in a style befitting his rank.

"How can I do this? I am well-qualified, experienced but not respected because I am not rich. Any hooligan with money gets respect in Lebanon. We have lost our values," he said.

The cabinet has not met for 18

months and state revenues have been siphoned off by militia control of roads and ports.

Economist Kamal Hamdan said the state was collecting only 15 per cent of revenues due and national production was only 40 to 45 per cent of its 1974 or pre-war level.

"We are on the threshold of a total collapse if we don't have a political solution," he told Reuters.

The lira's loss in purchasing power cut imports by 60 per cent in 1985-86. This has depressed retail trade, made local produce more competitive and, to an extent, stimulated exports. But manufacturers must pay for imported raw materials as Lebanon has few natural resources.

"Gold prices have soared and there has been no market for imported jewellery, so we have put our stock in the bank," said Mr. Fadi Maalouli, sitting idle in a plush but empty shop.

"We used to import shirts from Europe, but after the pound slumped we set up our own manufacturing plant. We're selling quite well," said Mr. Raymond Dikko, 30, in east Beirut.

"Until last year we made shoes with leather," said Mr. Samir Sabbagh, 40, in the city's bustling Bourj Hammoud suburb.

"Nowadays, leather shoes cost 3,500 Liras (\$31) a pair, a month's wages for ordinary Lebanese. So we use plastic — still costly for some at 700 Liras (\$6) a pair."

The head of the Lebanese Industrialists Association, Mr. Fuad Abi Saleh, estimated that exports were worth \$300 million last year, a rise of about 100 per cent on 1985, and were now

running at about \$40 million a month.

As recently as 1982, exports were worth \$1.2 billion and covered 45 per cent of imports, despite disruption caused by the Israeli invasion of that year.

Industry was always a poor sister in an economy dominated by banking, services, tourism and transit trade, themselves now struggling to survive. Remittances from Lebanese abroad have declined with the downturn in oil-based Gulf economies.

Up to 98 per cent of Lebanon's exports used to go to the Arab World, especially Saudi Arabia, Iraq and the Gulf. Demand in these markets has fallen, so traders are turning to Europe and North America, which now take about 25 per cent of exports.

Businessman Najib Harik pinpointed finance as the main problem for Lebanese exporters. In addition, he said, Lebanese goods were little-known in the new target markets.

"We have to convince customers that instability in Lebanon will not stop us from delivering orders on time," he said.

Mr. Antoine Obeid, secretary-general of the Lebanese Bankers Association, said commercial banks were now financing about 60 per cent of the government's 80 billion Liras (\$709 million) domestic debt through treasury bill purchases.

"There's a limit to what banks can do to support government finances," he said. "The government's best contribution would be to provide a minimum base of stability."

Mr. Abi Saleh said chances for an industrial recovery were hampered by central bank measures to squeeze liquidity in a hitherto unsuccessful effort to stem the lira's decline.

"They (the central bank) are cutting credit to industry and

The factory, with modern West German looms and Italian machinery, now operates at a mere 10 per cent of capacity.

"The local market is too small, we need to export," said Mr. Manuel Dakjian, 51. "But we can't get letters of credit and the banks won't give us a penny."

Mr. Abi Saleh urged the government to play a more active role in setting the war-tattered economy on its feet.

"Of course capital is shy because of the political situation. The risk of investing here cannot be taken by the individual alone — it's up to the community," he said.

"The central bank is trying to pump liquidity from the market. It is increasing interest rates to force the banks to finance the treasury deficit," he added.

Economic activity picks up in Philippines

MANILA (R) — Business activity is surging and the Philippines is on the verge of sustained growth after three lean years, government officials and businessmen said Saturday.

But some businessmen said workers would have to forgo their militancy and agree a lengthy moratorium on strikes.

The Employers' Confederation of the Philippines proposed on Friday a five-year ban on strikes, which are more common under the liberal labour environment of President Corason Aquino than under her predecessor Ferdinand Marcos.

Business leader, Mr. Raul Concepcion, told Reuters the initial results of a survey he had commissioned of the 200 biggest

industrial firms suggested the economy was surging.

"It seems to confirm the perception that the economy is in full swing. The 2½-year slide in the economy has been arrested and people are no longer holding back," he said.

The economy, which contracted in 1984 and 1985, grew by a mere 0.1 per cent in 1986, although the final quarter saw better growth than in the first nine months.

Mr. Concepcion said electricity consumption had jumped to 80 per cent of its level at the last boom period in 1983, just before the assassination of Benigno Aquino, husband of the president, plunged the country in a crisis that eventually led to the

downfall of Marcos.

He said the higher power output was because of business activity picking up.

Consumer spending was up, credit was plentiful again and sales of steel and cement had increased by up to 40 per cent, said Mr. Concepcion, brother of Trade and Industry Secretary Hose Concepcion.

"The only bad side is the labour environment," he said. "Union leaders cannot afford to become militant at this stage."

Mr. David Syop, a former banker now in charge of selling hundreds of government firms and idle assets in an ambitious privatisation scheme, said the business boom had been fuelled by a building revival.

In the meantime the government has said it will import 250,000 bags of cement from Indonesia at a cost of \$37.5 million.

USSR, India to boost trade

NEW DELHI (R) — India and the Soviet Union have agreed to more than double annual bilateral trade to 100 billion rupees (\$7.6 billion) by 1992, an Indian external affairs ministry spokesman said last week. The Indian side said a series of agreements, including two on industrial production and telecommunications, were reached. Indian and Soviet officials agreed to strengthen economic relations and discussed cooperation in the fields of petroleum, coal, gas, civil aviation and electronics.

Lloyds offers to settle scandal

LONDON (R) — Lloyds of London said last week it will offer to pay part of the £235 million (\$375 million) in claims faced by 3,000 investors in an insurance group hit by embezzlement. The offer to investors in the PCW insurance underwriting syndicates could put an end to one of London's biggest financial scandals. Lloyds has taken nearly five years to find a solution to the PCW affair after the syndicates' former management embezzled £39 million (\$62 million).

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, APRIL 13, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You have a chance to make some very long-term plans. It's a fine time to work out new and more satisfactory arrangements with your partners and associates.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You can meet with quick action where your partners are concerned. State your aims and get the backing you need.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Get right to work on whatever is important. Make sure you put your finest talents to work.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Start the day by utilizing your finest gifts and be most creative. Make the evening charming at home.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Even if employed in outside endeavors, keep your mind on the welfare of your family.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Plan how to please those you have dealings with. You can get the support you need easily and gain your wishes.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Get in touch with those you want to deal with in practical matters and come to a friendly understanding.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Concentrate on important matters today. Express yourself wisely in social circles and become more popular.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Be with the one you love and come to a fine understanding. Garner some important data you need.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Show more affection for those you like and keep them as friends for a long time to come.

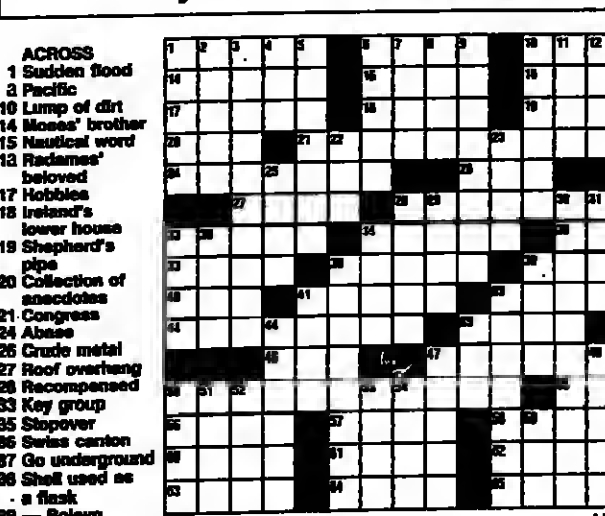
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Get out to business affairs and handle them most efficiently. Gain the favor of those who are influential.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Be alert to progressive ideas that present themselves and you find that you can get ahead much faster.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You can do something especially thoughtful for your mate and get positive feedback. Be enthused now.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he, or she, will be very capable at understanding the motivations and wishes of others, so be sure to slant the education along lines of work that are of a humanitarian and cultural nature. This one will be very just and fair in almost everything.

THE Daily Crossword by Florence C. Adler



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- ACROSS**
1. Sudden flood
 2. Pacific
 3. Lump of dirt
 4. Mosaic's brother
 5. Haulout word
 6. Redwood
 7. Hobble
 8. Ireland's lower house
 9. Shepherd's pipe
 10. Collection of anecdotes
 11. Congress
 12. Abacus
 13. Crude metal
 14. Roof overhang
 15. Reacquainted
 16. Key group
 17. Stopover
 18. Swiss canton
 19. Go underground
 20. Shell used as a flask
 21. Boleyn
 22. Fiss
 23. Emerged
 24. Military student
 25. Dancer
 26. Side
 27. Nonsensical
 28. Merit
 29. Eng. sealable resort
 30. Part of TAE
 31. Suis
 32. Shaggy
 33. Legal holding
 34. Larva
 35. Obsolete
 36. Poles
 37. Permit
 38. Delineating device

- DOWN**
1. — days (synonym)
 2. US patriot
 3. Last battle
 4. Apex
 5. Subjugate
 6. Sponge
 7. Ruin, mountain range
 8. Wreath of flowers
 9. Ripened
 10. Jimmy or Amy
 11. In — of
 12. — noise
 13. Miami county
 14. Dutch city
 15. Run, sea
 16. Hard to find
 17. Race of —
 18. Nephew
 19. Pheasant
 20. Daily fare
 21. Run
 22. Adjunct
 23. Humor
 24. Appreciative
 25. Swiss river
 26. Balcony
 27. Teller
 28. Wandering
 29. Favorite
 30. Fr. author
 31. Vice
 32. Enroll
 33. Ointment
 34. Omnium
 35. Eye part
 36. Enroll
 37. Vice
 38. drying hope
 39. Gun gp.

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



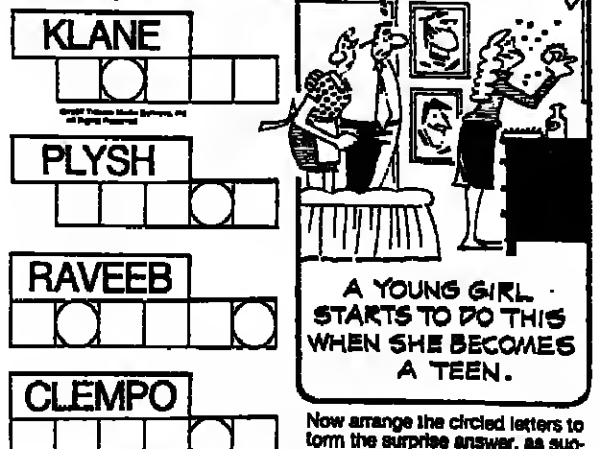
THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: CLUCK QUAIL MARAUD WEAKEN Answer: What the artist turned cowboy was — QUICK ON THE DRAW

Indian defence minister quits; Gandhi names successor

NEW DELHI (R) — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi appointed Krishna Chandra Pant as India's defence minister to replace Vishwanath Pratap Singh, who resigned Sunday after ordering controversial investigations into two scandals.

The Press Trust of India news agency said Mr. Pant was shifted from the Ministry of Steel and Mines, which will now be in the temporary charge of Energy Minister Vasant Sathe.

Mr. Pant, 56, was appointed after President Zail Singh accepted Mr. Singh's resignation, the agency said.

Mr. Gandhi has been under intense pressure from supporters in the last few days to drop Mr. Singh for indirectly challenging his leadership and trying to dent his "Mr. clean" image.

Senior members of the cabinet and of the ruling Congress (I) Party said they asked for the ousting because Mr. Singh ordered an inquiry last week into a \$23 million commission paid to an agent for buying foreign arms.

They said the investigation was a direct challenge to Mr. Gandhi

who has cultivated the image of a clean, liberal leader during his 2½ years in office.

Speculation of a rift between Mr. Gandhi and Mr. Singh has been rife since January when Mr. Singh was moved from the Finance Ministry. He had led a controversial crackdown on corruption, tax evasion and currency violations by big business.

The clean-up drive angered many prominent businessmen who have close links with the political establishment.

Mr. Singh has denied that the arms deal inquiry was an attempt to embarrass or topple Mr. Gandhi, who held the defence portfolio himself until naming Mr. Singh to the post. Mr. Singh offered last Friday to resign to prove his loyalty to the government.

The Defence Ministry did not

name the deal under scrutiny but newspapers reported the commission was paid on an order for submarines from West Germany.

Rumblings within the party have grown louder this year with Mr. Gandhi's failure to solve the Sikh conflict in Punjab state and halt an erosion of Congress (I) power in non-Hindi-speaking states.

In a separate development, film star Sunil Dutt, defying death threats from Sikh extremists, walked into Amritsar Sunday after leading a gruelling march across north India seeking peace in Punjab.

Hundreds of police armed with sub-machine guns ringed the actor-turned-politician as he ended a 2,000-kilometre march from India's film capital of Bombay.

Extremists fighting for a separate Sikh homeland in Punjab have threatened to kill Dutt if he enters Amritsar's Golden Temple, Sikhism's holiest shrine, as scheduled Monday.

Dutt, 54, has ignored the threat, saying no true Sikh would harm him.

He said he planned to pray at the Harmandir Sahib Shrine inside the sprawling temple complex, where extremists often move freely. The state government has said it cannot guarantee Dutt's safety inside the temple.

Hundreds of Sikhs and Hindus joined the march as Dutt and his supporters walked into the city behind a jeep fitted with a light machine gun.

"Now I am beginning to feel tired after 2,000 kilometres," Dutt told Reuters. He picked up jaundice and blisters on the march.

Dutt, star of more than 100 films and a member of parliament since 1985, set off from Bombay on Jan. 26 in an attempt to bring peace to Punjab, where separatist violence claims an average two deaths a day.

Farmers stopped tilling their fields along Punjab's Grand Trunk road and women ran from thatched huts to touch Dutt's feet as if he were a Hindu holy man.

The marchers, singing religious and patriotic songs, brought the road's usual stream of trucks, buses and bullock carts to a halt.

TASS: Reagan seeks to shift blame in spy row

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet News Agency TASS Sunday accused President Reagan of trying to shift the blame for an espionage row between the two countries to the Soviet Union.

TASS was reacting to a radio address by Mr. Reagan Saturday in which he said Soviet spying against the U.S. embassy in Moscow had gone too far and would be raised by Secretary of State George Shultz during talks in Moscow this week.

"Evidently trying to transfer the blame from the guilty to the innocent, the president alleged that it was the Soviet side which was 'derailing' the bilateral process which has been moving forward since 1969," when an accord was reached on construction sites for the embassies," TASS said.

"The attempts by representatives of the Washington administration to adopt the pose of 'being hurt' cannot be assessed as anything other than cynical to the utmost," it said.

In his weekly address Saturday, Mr. Reagan said sensors and listening devices had been found in building materials for a new U.S. embassy complex under construction in Moscow.

Soviet officials have countered these charges by accusing Washington of planting electronic eavesdropping equipment in its missions in the United States, including a new embassy being built under the terms of the 1969 and later accords.

The espionage row erupted after the arrest on spying charges last month of two former U.S. Marine guards at the Moscow embassy. A third Marine has been arrested on suspicion of spying and a fourth for alleged contacts with Soviet women.

The United States says the Marines were lured by Russian women into allowing Soviet agents to penetrate its existing embassy in Moscow.

The Soviet government newspaper Izvestia struck back Saturday with a detailed account of alleged misconduct by Marines assigned to Moscow including displays of drunkenness, harassment of women, hawling and narcotics abuse.

Rival parties compete for Indonesian Muslim votes

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia (R) — The chairman of Indonesia's ruling party and the head of the Muslim-backed opposition party addressed rival rallies in this staunchly Islamic city Saturday.

Ruling Golkar Party Chairman Sudharmono drew 25,000 people to his rally in advance of Indonesia's April 23 parliamentary elections.

John Naro, chairman of the Muslim-backed United Development Party, attracted 50,000 on the other side of the city, capital of the only province to vote against President Suharto in Indonesia's last elections, in 1982.

"Do not doubt us," Sudharmono told his rally. "Golkar has done much for Muslims in Aceh, even though we lost here in the last three elections."

Mr. Sudharmono, Suharto's chief of staff, said the government had built many mosques and brought modernisation to the area.

Later he faced hostile questioning from an audience of 3,000 students at a seminar.

The students demanded greater political freedom and an end to official corruption. They also complained that the government tried to segregate students from

abuse. The Soviet government newspaper Izvestia said Saturday the U.S. Defence Department had been told about improper conduct by U.S. Marines in Moscow long before the current uproar began.

Izvestia said the Soviet Foreign Ministry, through official channels, had repeatedly reported misdeeds by Marine embassy guards including public displays of drunkenness, harassment of women, brawling and narcotics abuse.

Listing what it described as the worst cases of Marine misbehaviour, the newspaper said guards under the influence of drugs on one occasion climbed onto the embassy roof and showered police below with shredded classified documents.

It said one group of Marines stormed the fence of a Moscow soccer stadium, causing damage to the pitch costing 12,345 rubles (\$18,500) to repair, while another ran like wild bulls against traffic down a main street, causing accidents.

The newspaper gave no dates for the incidents it described.

It said Marines often lured foreign girlfriends to the U.S. embassy dacha (cottage) outside Moscow and to the ambassador's residence for all-night parties.

"The disgusting, and at times criminal, adventures in Moscow of this 'elite' of the U.S. Armed Forces were known to the Pentagon long ago," Izvestia said.

"However it seems some 'clever heads' in Washington are prepared to transfer the blame for all the shameful adventures of their guards to (the) Soviet Union."

In the most complete account to date in the Soviet press of the sex-spy scandal in Washington, Izvestia reported the arrest on espionage charges of Sergeant Clayton Lonetree and Corporal Arnold Bracy, former guards at the Moscow embassy.

Lonetree and Bracy were charged after disclosures that they had liaisons with Soviet women acting for Kremlin espionage agencies.

Reagan remark heard before address

LOS ANGELES (AP) — President Ronald Reagan, whose White House microphone checks have sometimes produced embarrassing off-hand remarks, inadvertently let reporters know he has his guard up to prevent any more gaffes. During a microphone check as he prepared to make his weekly Saturday Radio address from his suite at the Century Plaza Hotel, Mr. Reagan said: "All right, my fellow Americans. Having had an experience once before during one of the voice checks, and finding it in the press the next day, I'm not going to say anything." The comment wasn't supposed to leave Mr. Reagan's hotel suite — but it did. The comment, made about five minutes before Mr. Reagan's address began, was relayed through a channel set up by the White House Communications Agency so reporters in the hotel press centre can hear the speech. Under normal conditions, the line to the newsroom is opened only seconds before the president's speech to prevent any inadvertent relays of presidential jokes.

Town goes up for sale in California

DILLON BEACH, California (AP) — Looking for that special gift for the person who has everything? A cool \$4.9 million can buy this 100-year-old town, complete with general store and 610 metres of beachfront property. Dillon Beach, population 300, is for sale, and three cabins and a trailer park are part of the package. But despite its location on the water about 65 kilometres north of San Francisco, only a few prospective buyers have expressed interest since it was put up for sale about 16 years ago. It's a developer's gold mine, according to real estate agent John Duran, who says he's getting a strong response from recent national ads and packages he's sent to 20 potential investors. "You just can't buy a private beach anymore," he said. "With this, you get the opportunity to essentially build a resort from scratch."

Barbara Stanwyck honoured

BEVERLY HILLS, California (R) — Veteran Hollywood actress Barbara Stanwyck, star of Double Indemnity and more than 80 other films, dragged herself out of a hospital bed to receive the American Film Institute's Life Achievement Award at a lavish dinner. Ms. Stanwyck, the 79-year-old star of films including The Lady Eve, Stella Dallas and the long-running Big Valley television series, was in obvious pain as she accepted the silver star symbolic of work that has stood the test of time and listened to tributes from colleagues. "Thank you ladies and gentlemen and, honest to God, I can't walk on water," said the silver-haired actress. She has been nominated for four Academy Awards and was given an honorary Oscar in 1982. Ms. Stanwyck hurt her back out last weekend while exercising with weights and could only take part in the closing minutes of the star-studded evening. She returned to the hospital immediately afterward. "If Barbara Stanwyck says she's going to be here, it's as sure as death and taxes she's going to be here," said Charlton Heston, president of the American Film Institute.

Soviets more optimistic than U.S. teens

NEW YORK (AP) — A first-of-its kind poll of Soviet and American teen-agers indicates that the Soviets are more optimistic about chances that a nuclear war can be avoided than are their American counterparts. The poll measured the response of 2,263 Soviet students in Tsimbuz and Rostov provinces against those 3,372 teen-agers in Maryland. It found that 56 per cent of the Soviets believed that a nuclear war would never happen, compared with 14 per cent of the Americans. But the Americans were a bit more optimistic about their own chances of surviving a nuclear war. A fifth of the Americans said their chances were even or better, compared with a tenth of the Soviets. The poll was directed by Dr. Eric Chivian of the International Children's Project at the Harvard Medical School's Centre for Psychological Studies in the Nuclear Age, and by Dr. Nicolai Popov of the Soviet Academy of Sciences' institute of the USA and Canada.

Hinckley 'considered' escape from asylum

WASHINGTON (R) — John Hinckley, would-be assassin of President Reagan, wrote to a woman friend in 1982 asking for a gun to help him escape from a mental institution and unite him with actress Jody Foster, the Washington Post said. The Post said the letter was produced in U.S. district court by prosecutors trying to block the mental hospital from releasing Hinckley for an unescorted visit to his parent's home in Reston, Virginia, 25 kilometres away over Easter. The newspaper said Hinckley, who was found not guilty by reason of insanity for his 1981 shooting of Mr. Reagan, had suggested to the friend that she hijack an airplane and demand his release from St. Elizabeth's Hospital. The letter, written to Penny Lynn Bailey of Chicago, revealed that Hinckley was still obsessed by actress Jody Foster, whose name figured often in his trial, prosecutors said. Witness then said he had become infatuated with Foster after seeing her in the film Taxi Driver and had attempted to kill Mr. Reagan with the idea that he could impress her. The newspaper said the letter to Bailey said "Penny, I'm putting all my trust in you and I know you won't let me down." In the letter, Hinckley told Bailey she should hijack the plane and demand that both he and Foster be brought to the plane's side before the passengers were released.

Brothers reunited after 68 years

PRICHARD, Alabama (AP) — When Nick McShea stowed away on a merchant ship in 1919, he left nine brothers and sisters behind in Great Britain. It was 68 years before he saw his youngest brother again, Nick, now 87, and Ted, 69, were reunited recently in New Orleans after Ted found out his elder brother was living in Prichard, north of Mobile. "I had always wondered about this older brother. I always had a yearning to see him," Ted said. When Nick left England, Ted was only 11 months old. Nick said he stowed away on the Master Creek and landed in New Orleans. He met someone from Prichard and came to Alabama, taking a job milking cows for \$5 a week. After working in dairy farm operations and maintenance at area hospitals, he retired in 1970, he recalled in a recent interview with the Mobile Press Register. Nick occasionally wrote to his family but stopped during World War II. Ted, meanwhile, spent part of the war in a German POW camp. After the war, he worked in Great Britain, then in 1965 moved to Australia, where he met a man from Prichard. "I asked him to see if there were any McSheas around," Ted said. He was surprised, he said, to find out Nick was still living there. The two brothers met in New Orleans two weeks at the home of Nick's son. Nick played a joke on Ted, pretending to be a telephone repairman. Nick said Ted was upset that the family let a stranger in the house. "He challenged me," Nick said. He said his brother demanded identification and an argument ensued until Nick told him, "I'm your brother." "I was very surprised," Ted said. "He's a character." The two found they both enjoyed woodworking and both built their own homes. Only one other brother, 72-year-old Tommy, is still alive, in Australia.

Imelda Marcos bought fake moustaches

MANILA (R) — Imelda Marcos, wife of ex-President Ferdinand Marcos, bought six false moustaches in Hawaii last January to prepare for a clandestine return to the Philippines, a newspaper has said. Mrs. Marcos also bought toupees, combat boots and fatigues for her husband, herself and supporters a few days before pro-Marcos soldiers staged an abortive coup in Manila on Jan. 27. The Manila Chronicle quoted visiting Tomas Gomez, Philippine consul in Hawaii, as saying, U.S. officials said at the time they refused take-off permission to a chartered aircraft that was to have taken the Marcoses to the Philippines from Hawaii, where they live.

S. Korea abandons plan for constitutional reform

SEOUL (R) — The South Korean government has abandoned plans for constitutional reform until after a successor to President Chun Doo Hwan is installed and the 1988 Olympics are out of the way, local newspapers reported Sunday.

Successor to Mr. Chun, who will step down when his term ends in February, will be selected by the present Electoral College system, said the influential Chosun Ilbo and the government's Seoul Shinmun. They both quoted government sources.

Meanwhile, hundreds of police continued to confine opposition figure Kim Dae-Jung, an arch-foe of the Electoral College system, to his home.

Government and ruling-party officials have said prospects for agreement over constitutional reforms had dimmed since Kim Dae-Jung and Kim Young-Sam, the other leading dissident, decided to form a new political party to fight for direct presidential elections.

Cosmonauts repair Kvant problem during space walk

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet space research module Kvant was successfully docked with the orbiting station Mir Sunday during a space walk by Cosmonauts Yuri Romanenko and Alexander Laveikin, TASS news agency reported.

TASS said the cosmonauts discovered that an alien object inside Kvant's docking unit had prevented it from sealing hermetically with Mir.

The men carried out work to allow the tightening of the seal and the two spacecraft were docked by ground control under the visual supervision of the cosmonauts.

"This process ... proceeded smoothly and resulted in the full joining of the module with the station," TASS said.

It said Romanenko and Laveikin had stepped out of Mir at 19:41 GMT Saturday night for the space walk, which lasted three hours and 40 minutes. It said both cosmonauts were in good condition.

Kvant, described as a fun-

damentally new type of space vehicle, is Mir's first module for experimental work.

TASS said its addition to Mir significantly broadened the possibilities and heightened the efficiency of scientific research in space.

It said the space complex of Mir Kvant and the Soyuz TM-2 spacecraft from which the cosmonauts boarded Mir on Feb. 8 had a combined total weight of 51 tonnes and measured 35 metres in length.

Kvant, launched on March 31, failed to dock successfully with Mir during two previous attempts last week.

On Tuesday its directional systems malfunctioned as it approached the space station, and on Friday it failed by a few centimetres to dock fully with Mir.

By making the seal between the two vessels air-tight, the cosmonauts will now be able to enter Kvant from Mir to begin the scientific experiments for which the module was conceived.

Pope appeals against repeat of 'dirty war'

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Up to half a million young people feted Pope John Paul II with songs, fireworks and a gaucho hat as he opened the Roman Catholic Church's World Day of Youth.

Young people from Argentina and at least 20 other countries packed Buenos Aires' July 9 Avenue for the ceremony, one of the most jubilant on the Pope's two-week tour of South America.

During the ceremony the Pope made his most direct reference to

Argentina's troubled past when he used the word "desaparecidos," referring to the thousands of people who disappeared under military rule.

The young people, who had been gathering in Buenos Aires for a week, sang songs and waved hundreds of thousands of white and blue Argentine flags. Fireworks lit the Buenos Aires sky as the Pope arrived at the meeting site on July 9 Avenue, one of the world's broadest boulevards.

Tamil guerrillas reject Colombo's ceasefire offer

COLOMBO (R) — The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam rebel group rejected the government's unilateral ceasefire but said it would not seek out fighting, a spokesman said.

"We don't believe in unilateral ceasefires but for the sake of peace we won't attack camps unless provoked," spokesman S. Thilagar told Reuters by telephone from the South Indian city of Madras.

He denied a government statement that the guerrillas had attacked unarmed soldiers minutes after the 10-day ceasefire came into operation.

The government said one soldier was injured when rebels fired at troops clearing undergrowth around a camp at Kurumbasetty on the Jaffna peninsula.

Mr. Thilagar said the soldiers were armed and withdrew into

the camp when under attack. A government spokesman said the rebels had violated the truce but added, "we shall still continue with our ceasefire and we shall be watching."

The Tigers spokesman said the ceasefire, declared by the government to enable majority Sinhalese and minority Tamils to enjoy their new year peacefully Monday, was for the "sole purpose of giving war-weary government troops a rest."

"A ceasefire has to be bilateral. We treat the current exercise as a ploy to give soldiers a rest. No-otherwise we will stop attacks on camps and would defend only when provoked," he said.

The government said Saturday that its soldiers would continue to go out on patrol during the truce, the third since July, 1985.

'NASA, not Pentagon, to control space station'

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., (R) — The NASA official in charge of a space station plan being developed with European, Canadian and Japanese help has said the space agency, not the Defence Department, will control the project.

"I can assure you the Defence Department will not have control of the space station. NASA will have control of the space station," said Andrew Stoffan, associate administrator of the project for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

Mr. Stoffan said the space station's international partners, the European Space Agency, Japan and Canada, will "absolutely have some say" in all aspects of the space station.

"We consider them as junior partners and as junior partners their rights must be protected," he said.

His remarks came after a letter to Secretary of State George

Shultz circulated in Washington this week in which Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger said the United States "must be prepared to go forward alone" if its allies are not willing to allow the Pentagon to "conduct national security activities on U.S. elements of the space station."

The manned space station was first proposed by President Reagan in 1984 as an international effort that would conduct research and commercial endeavours for civilian purposes only.

Some congressmen have written to President Reagan over the Pentagon demand, aides said in Washington.

The aides said one concern was that the Pentagon will seek to use the \$14.5-billion manned space station as a platform for Mr. Reagan's controversial "Star Wars" missile defence system, formally known as the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI).

Fijian opposition wins elections

Pacific Nation has been defeated by a doctor with no experience in government, election officials announced Sunday.

Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara's ruling Alliance won only 21 seats in the 52-seat parliament, compared to 27 for the left-leaning opposition coalition headed by Dr. Timoci Bavadra, election officials said.

Three of the four seats yet-to-be declared were expected to go to Dr. Bavadra, head of the multiracial Labour Party, which is in a coalition with the Indian-dominated Federation Party.

Dr. Bavadra, 52, a family planning specialist with 11 children, told supporters in the western town of Tauloka to be calm. He asked them to "meditate and pray for the new government."

Mara, a 66-year-old hereditary high chief, has governed the is-

lands, located north east of Australia, since they gained independence from Britain in 1970.

Fiji's complex voting system — everyone has four votes — is a legacy of British rule designed to maintain a balance of power between the almost evenly divided ethnic Fijian and Indian communities.

The 715,000 population is spread across more than 100 islands. Eligible voters numbered 331,000 and turnout was put at 70 per cent.

Indians, descendants of 19th century indentured sugar plantation labour, slightly outnumber Fijians.

Although voting was along racial lines, some urban poor Fijians voted for Dr. Bavadra's coalition and tipped the balance, electoral officials said.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
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BITE THE BULLET EARLY

Both vulnerable. South deals.
NORTH
♠ 5 3
♥ A K 4
♦ Q 8 7
♣ A Q 5 3

EAST
♠ K 8
♥ Q 6 5 3 2
♦ 10 9
♣ 9 8
♠ J 10 8 4 3
♥ A 10 9
♦ J 8 7
♣ K J 10 4 3 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
4 NT Pass 5 ♠ Pass
6 ♠ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Jack of ♠

It is not only at tennis that young Scandinavians are making their mark. Lars Blakeset of Denmark, a former junior champion, was selected as one of the 10 candidates for Royal Viking Line's "Player of the Year" competition.

"When you are defending against a squeeze," writes Blakeset, "you usually have to attack declarer's communications; if that

is impossible without sacrificing a key trick, you might have to rely on a deceptive discard early in the play. This hand is from the 1985 European Championship."

After a highly-artificial auction, North-South arrived at six diamonds. It might seem that a spade lead would beat that, but declarer can make the contract with careful play. Even with a club lead, West was exposed to a heart-club squeeze if declarer guessed the position, or he could play East for the 10-9 bare of hearts.

Declarer took the king of clubs and ran the ten of diamonds to East's ace. He won the spade return, cashed one high trump on which West discarded a heart, took the ace of clubs (had he cashed the queen as well, he would have gotten a count of the suit), then started running his diamonds. Blakeset foresaw that, in the four-card ending, he could not guard both key suits, so his first two discards were both clubs. Then came the king of spades and, finally, a heart.

West's order of discards convinced declarer he had started with six clubs and four hearts, so on the last trump declarer let go dummy's club and kept three hearts. Thus he had to surrender a heart at the end for down one.

Handwritten signature: J. H. H. H.